



AN
Historical Memento

Of the

CELEBRATION

Of the

GLORIOUS PEACE OF 1814,

AND THE CENTENARY OF THE

ILLUSTRIOUS HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK.

EDITED, PUBLISHED, & SOLD BY EDWARD ORME.

Bond Street, Corner of Brook Street.

Coth Street. London

Mr Smith

AN
HISTORICAL MEMENTO,

&c. &c.

AN
HISTORICAL MEMENTO,
REPRESENTING THE
DIFFERENT SCENES OF PUBLIC REJOICING,
WHICH TOOK PLACE THE FIRST OF AUGUST,
IN
ST. JAMES'S AND HYDE PARKS, LONDON,
IN CELEBRATION OF
THE GLORIOUS PEACE OF 1814,
AND OF
The Centenary of the Accession
OF THE
ILLUSTRIOUS HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK
TO
THE THRONE OF THESE KINGDOMS.

LONDON:
EDITED, PUBLISHED, AND SOLD BY EDWARD ORME,
Publisher to His Majesty, and His Royal Highness the Prince Regent,
BOND-STREET, CORNER OF BROOK-STREET.
1814.



J.H. Clark del.
Published & sold Aug^r 25th 1844, by EDW^d ORME, Publisher to his Majesty and HER the Prince Regent, Bond Street, corner of Broad St. London
J. Debony fecit.

THE TOWER & PREPARATION OF THE FIRE WORKS. WITH THE BALLOON,
(*See the 2nd Vol. Aug^r 1st 1844*)

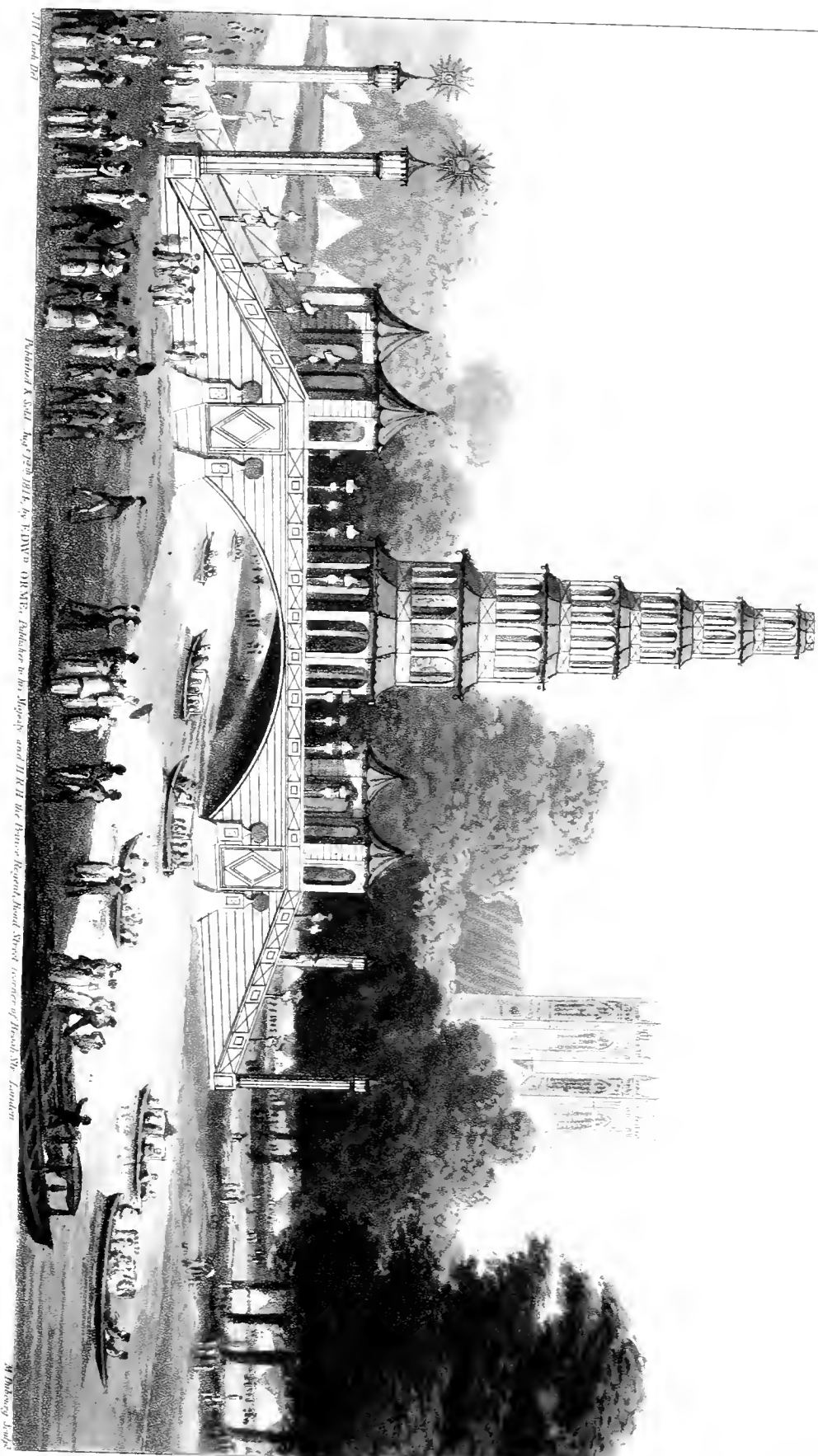


J.H. Cockburn Del.

Published & Sold May 12th 1814 by EDWARD ORRILL, Publisher to his Majesty, and R. H. B. the Prince Regent Bond Street corner of Brook Street London

W. Pickersbury Sculp.

THE REVOLVING TEMPLE OF CONCORD IN FINSBURY,
as situated in the Park in celebration of the glorious Peace of 1814.



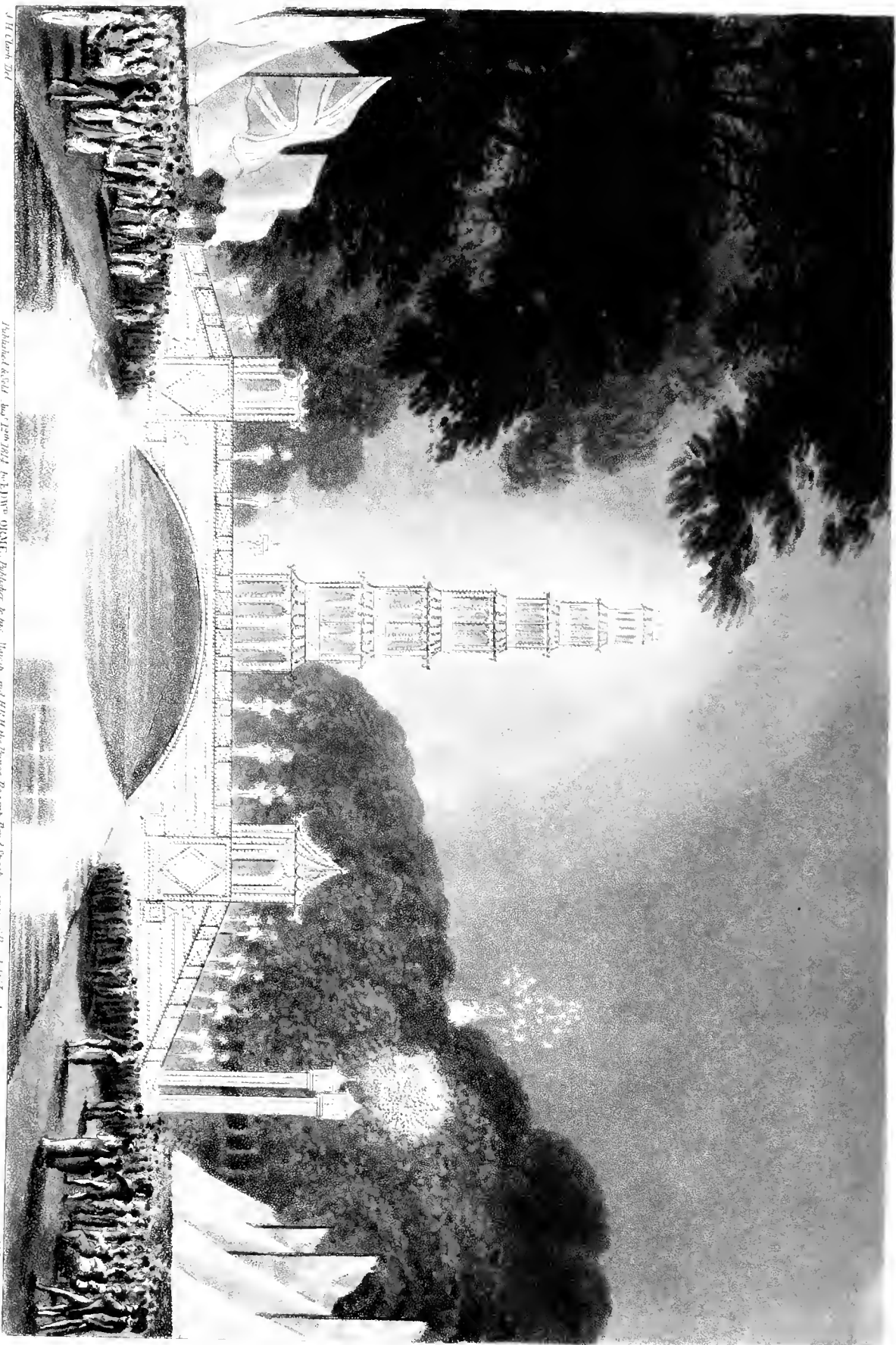
After the book by

Published A. S. & Co. No. 1725 10th St. by EDWIN ORME, Publisher to the Ministry, and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Agent General of the British Empire, London.

W. H. & Co. London.

THE CHINESE BRIDGE & RANGOON.

Printed in the Office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office of 1857

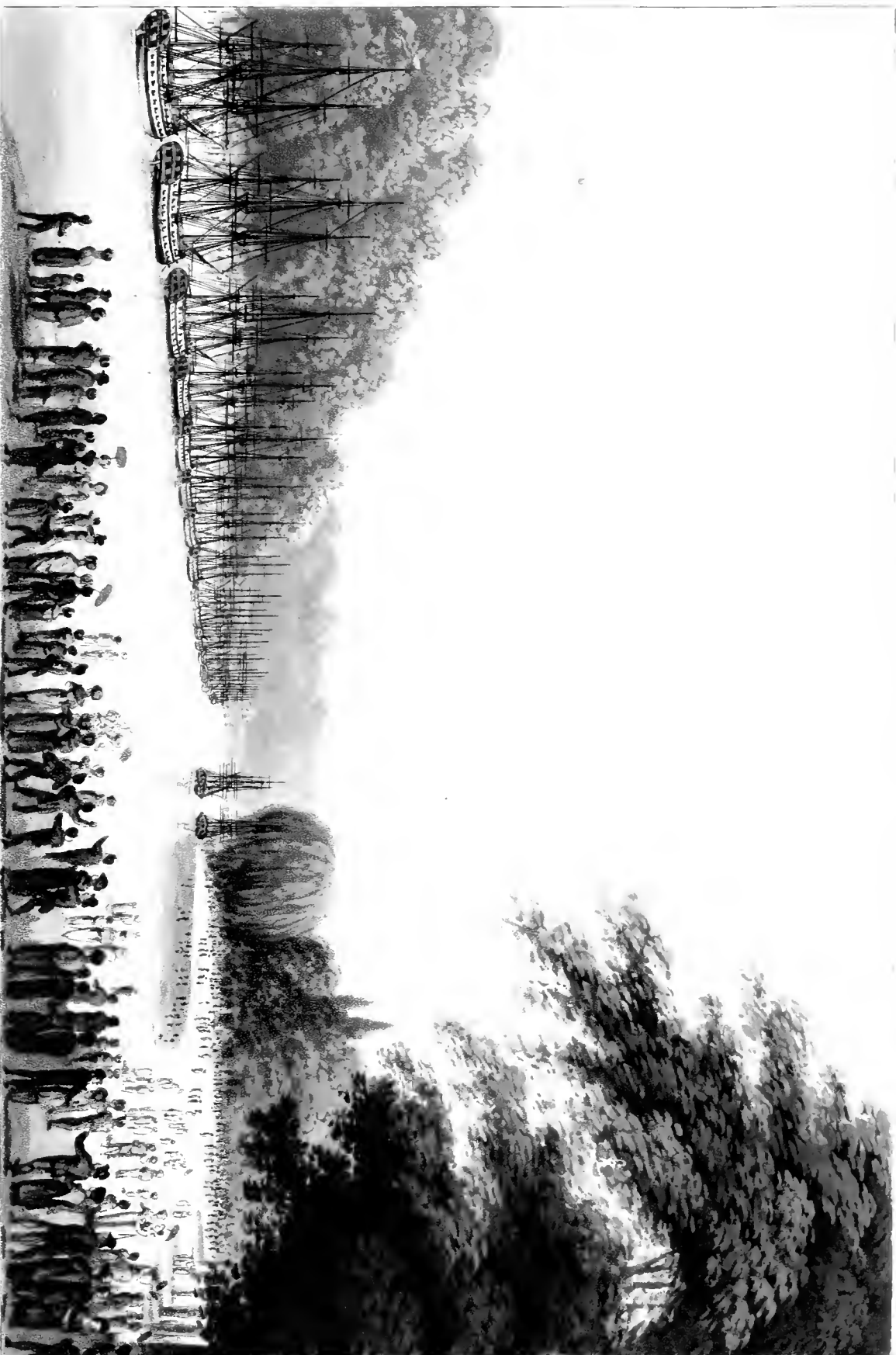


J. H. Clark Del.

Published & sold by J. H. Clark, 21, Pall Mall, London. W. and H. H. the Prince Regent Road Street, corner of Broad St. London.

M. H. Brown & Co. Del.

THE CHINESE BRIDGE, TIENTSIN.
(A View of the Bridge of the Chinese Bridge, 1871.)



J. H. C. Cook Del.

Published & Sold, Aug 12th 1814, by EDW. ORME, Publisher to his Majesty and H.R.H. the Prince Regent, Bond Street, corner of Grosvenor Street, London.

J. H. C. Cook Sculp.

THE FLEET ON THE SERPENTINE RIVER,

Commemorative of the Battle of the Vittoria, Aug 1st 1814.



M. Currier Del.

Published and sold at 125 N. 3rd St. by EDWIN ORRICK, Publisher of the Dispatch, Broad Street corner of Book Street, London.

W. B. Woodbury Engr.

THE VIEW OF THE PARK IN HYDRA PARK, AUGUST 1814.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

BY F. W. BLAGDON, ESQ.

ON presenting the public with a *Graphic Memento* of the late GRAND NATIONAL JUBILEE, in honour of a most glorious, and (as we trust it will prove) a durable peace,—a few brief observations on the leading events which have effected this happy occurrence may not be deemed inappropriate. It is far from our intention to enter into an historical detail of the scarcely numerable affairs, by sea and land, in which this immortalized country has partaken, only to conquer,—and has thereby raised her national character to the highest and most enviable eminence of human greatness; for neither our time, space, or ability, is equal to prosecute with justice so arduous a task. But now that the dreaded sword is sheathed throughout Europe, and our warriors are returning to their homes with exultation and tranquillity, a cursory record of their gallant deeds, while it consecrates to posterity such achievements as are without a parallel in history, may, however feebly, contribute to cherish our gratitude towards the British heroes, and prove to future ages the consequences which must ever attend a combination of firmness, virtue, and valour.

We have at length obtained that happy end, which all men of penetration and sound judgment predicted we should acquire, by an unshaken perseverance in those just principles, which first impelled us to resort to arms. Our national character insulted; our national prosperity threatened with annihilation; our government outraged; our sovereign libelled and traduced—we were forced to resist the infuriate aggressions of a nation of sanguinary fanatics, who, misled by the *ignis fatuus* of political liberty, waded through oceans of blood in pursuit of the imagined shadow; and, after enduring years of havoc and desolation, finally suc-

cumbed to a more horrible system of despotism than any which had previously cursed the earth since its creation. But, through our perseverance, the *Revolution* of France has been completed : we have prosecuted the war till a peace has been obtained, which has comprised the sole and only object for which we have so long contended, namely, “ *indemnity for the past, and security for the future!*”

If war, in any case, can be justified on the plea of necessity, (and it is not possible to negative so plain a proposition,) it must be admitted, that never did such a necessity exist for hostilities with France, as at the period when we were compelled to commence them. Volumes innumerable have been written, by graceless demagogues, to prove that the war was entered into, on our part, for the purpose of oppressing a people who wished to shake off the iron yoke of despotism, under which they had been bent to the earth for centuries ; that it was a war against the liberty of expressing political sentiments, and that it was equally absurd as impious to attempt the extirpation of opinions by fire and sword. But these perverse and seditious writers continued incessantly the propagation of such false and futile sentiments, even till the hour when their idol was overthrown, and universal scorn, contempt, and infamy, became the final recompense of *their* ignoble efforts. The cause of justice and loyalty having at length completely triumphed, the time is come for good men to exult, and for the too numerous disaffected to retire in dismay, at the total destruction of those hopes and views, which they had basely cherished for the long period of twenty-one years.

Advocates, as we have ever been, during the whole of that awful period, for a vigorous and unremitting prosecution of the war, till the purposes which we had anticipated should be attained, we can proudly justify ourselves, if any justification were requisite, for the inculcation of those principles, to the extent of our limited, *though various means*.* The object of our late infuriate enemy was of too comprehensive a nature not to create the utmost alarm in the minds of all honest

* In the course of the war, the editor of this work, Mr. EDWARD ORME, of Bond Street, has not been inactive in the good cause ; he has omitted no opportunity of bringing forward to public admiration, by the graphic art, the principal events in which our arms have triumphed both by sea and land ; publishing, at various periods, engravings of those great exploits most calculated to impress the mind with correct ideas of the arduous struggles which has immortalized the British name ; as also correct portraits of our gallant officers, the glory and honour of their country.

Englishmen, who wished to leave their posterity in the possession of those blessings which they had themselves enjoyed ; and which, under the reign of the great family of the House of Brunswick, have been the peculiar attributes of this most favoured land. Was it not incumbent on the British government to resist the views of a maddened nation, which openly aimed at, and too fatally succeeded in, the subversion of all legal order and authority, the violation of the most solemn compacts and treaties, the profanation of every thing sacred, venerable, and august ? Was it not a moral duty on our part to check the desperate schemes of a people, who, under their revolutionary mania, had perpetrated the most diabolical crimes ; who had deliberately murdered thousands of innocent victims, whose only offence was their loyal attachment to the government of their forefathers ; and who, at the outset of their career, entailed eternal disgrace upon the French name by the assassination of an amiable sovereign and his consort ? To the perpetual shame of their age, these are facts which cannot be controverted, and which the faithful pen of History will transmit to future times as matters of wonder and astonishment. When, therefore, it was evident, that, far from retracting and acknowledging their errors and their crimes, these infatuated people laboured only to propagate them throughout the world, and to spread desolation and carnage in every country, as they had done in their own, it was the glory of Britain to stand forward in the labour of restoring a *real* age of reason, and to make those efforts which the world could expect from her alone, for re-establishing religion on her seat, and legitimate monarchy on her throne. It was not to consolidate an interest in a newly-discovered country ; it was not to substantiate the advantages of a newly-acquired commerce ; it was not to revenge a national insult, to guarantee a treaty, or to subdue a misguided and rebellious colony : all these, indeed, were occasions in which our fleets had already traversed the ocean, and our cannon thundered in the field ; and such were cases, on the expediency of which politicians have been divided in opinion, without any imputation on their understanding, or their integrity. But the cause which we have lived to see triumphant, was one which involved a far more extensive object : it was the cause of human nature—of the noblest principles of the human breast ; it was the cause of justice, rectitude, and innocence ; it was a contest for the most invaluable of our blessings, the dearest

privileges which we could possess—our liberty, our property, our independence—the cause of all that peace, happiness, and gratification, which we enjoy in the circles of domestic society—the cause of our churches, our altars, our laws, our present faith, and future hope! And this great and important cause has Providence, *in the year of the Centenary of the House of Brunswick*, rendered completely successful!

Since the commencement of that war, the progress and close of which it is our object to record, a new generation of mankind has arisen, and arrived at maturity. Few of these can be supposed to know, with accuracy, the circumstances which led to the long and horrible conflict. Verbal information, communications made in the periods of adolescence, leave but a transient impression on the mind; and even the efforts of adult reminiscence are seldom adequate to convey correct outlines of great historical facts, that occur in rapid succession through a series of years. We shall therefore endeavour, as concisely as possible, to state the incidents which produced the war, and afterwards to record the principal of those glorious successes of our arms, by sea and land, which have led to its happy termination.

It is not necessary to enter into the particulars of the horrid French Revolution; for, had the people of France confined themselves to the new-modelling of their government, according to their ideas of the change being a national benefit, however absurd and irrational they might have been, the wise administration of this country would never have interposed to stop their progress. But when, after destroying their own legitimate government, they, in an official decree of the 19th of November, 1792, declared “*war to palaces*,” and openly avowed their determination to *assist* any other people who would imitate their example, it became high time for this country to set aside* that system of neutrality which it had so

* The following is the particular passage in the memorable decree to which we have alluded:—

“The National Convention declares, in the name of the French nation, that they will grant fraternity and assistance to all people who wish to recover their liberty; and they charge the executive power to send the necessary orders to the generals—to give assistance to such people, and to defend those citizens, who have suffered, or may suffer, in the cause of liberty.”

It was further resolved, that this decree should be translated into, and printed in all languages!—In another decree, issued on the 15th of December, in the same year, the Convention declared, that *their principles would not permit them to acknowledge any of the institutions militating against the sovereignty of the people!*

sincerely professed and endeavoured to maintain. The French revolutionary government wished to enforce this neutrality upon Great Britain, only that it might be enabled to accomplish the dangerous schemes which it had formed of continental usurpation; and the correspondence at that time between our minister, Lord GRENVILLE, and the French ambassador, M. CHAUVELIN, clearly proved that the French republican government would not purchase the continuance of peace with us at the expense of her projects of ambition, which were levelled at the independence of every other state in Europe. The language of Lord GRENVILLE was as explicit and unequivocal as it was honourable to our country. He stated, as the condition of a continued friendship with France, that she must shew a disposition “*to renounce her views of aggrandisement, and to confine herself within her own territories, without insulting other governments—without disturbing their tranquillity—without violating their rights.*” To these propositions the French government replied only by evasions, which contained a reservation of the dangerous claim of a right to annul treaties, whenever, in their opinion, their newly-invented *rights of nature*, or, in other words, *their own interests*, called for the exercise of such an effort, and also to violate at their pleasure the rights of independent nations in alliance with us. Our refusal to be satisfied with such disorganizing and preposterous explanations, which tended rather to justify than repair the injuries complained of, was considered, by the French government of that time, as a sufficient basis for a declaration of war. To the honour, and, in proof of the pacific disposition of this country, it should be recorded, that, had the French been disposed to effect an accommodation, the crimes which they had committed in their revolutionary rage, would not have been an obstacle which we should have thrown in the way of an amicable intercourse: on the contrary, our government afforded them every facility for accommodation. This fact is not only fully proved by the correspondence between Lord GRENVILLE and M. CHAUVELIN, but is confirmed by the instructions sent, at that time, to the late Lord AUCKLAND, at the Hague, to propose a conference with DUMOURIER on the frontiers of Holland. But peace was not the wish of the French government; and, though they knew of the orders of the British cabinet to their minister, for opening a pacific negociation, they caused war to be declared before the day of

meeting: and BRISOT, a notorious and leading character in the French assembly, publicly declared, that “ *it was the determination of France to brave all Europe!*”

Thus, it was not till a systematic plan was formally resolved upon by the French assembly of usurpers, for dissolving all lawful governments, that Great Britain reluctantly determined to unsheath the sword in defence of her religion, liberty, independence, and every privilege that can be dear to man.

Such were the circumstances which led to the war between Great Britain and France—a war, which soon involved in its consequences almost every state in Europe, and has spread horror and desolation, in nearly every direction, from the interior of Asia to the North Pole.—We shall now briefly trace, or rather enumerate, the leading events which have arisen out of it, till we bring down our record to its glorious consummation.

The events of the first campaign, in 1793, were highly important. Previous to its opening, the French, in one quarter, were in possession of Austrian Flanders, Brabant, the Bishopric of Liege, Aix-la-Chapelle, Ruremonde, and Breda, with several other towns in Dutch Brabant: the Roer and the Maese only were the boundaries of their conquests, to which the strength of Maestricht, and the gallant defence of the garrison of Williamstadt, had given a momentary check. DUMOURIER was on the point of crossing the Moerdyke, into Holland; while MIRANDA was about to penetrate into the United Provinces, by way of Nimeguen. The divisions amongst the Dutch had marked them for an easy prey; and the riches of Amsterdam offered an immense resource for carrying on the projects of the Convention.

On the Rhine, the French were in possession of Deux Ponts, Saarbruck, a part of the Palatinate, and the strong and populous city of Mentz; by which they were enabled to carry their arms into the heart of Germany at discretion. They were masters of Savoy, and had completely overawed the court of Naples; their fleet swept the Mediterranean, and all its shores dreaded a visit (too soon performed) of *confraternity*. On the borders of Spain they had assembled a considerable army, commissioned to bring her monarch to the bar of the National Convention.

II

In this critical state of affairs, Great Britain, as an earnest of her future glorious exertions, assisted Holland with uncommon celerity. She sent her guards, and other troops, who inspired confidence in the Dutch government, and soon covered themselves with the laurels of victory. Austria and Prussia having joined to preserve their national existence, and being liberally seconded by the immense resources of this country, the French were rapidly expelled from Flanders; and, in less than a month, the baleful *tree of liberty* was rooted up throughout the Dutch and Austrian Provinces.

Throughout the whole of the spring of 1793, the Allies almost uniformly had the advantage in various engagements, and they gained many important posts on the Rhine. On the 8th of May the whole French army was attacked and repulsed near Valenciennes; and the British troops, for the first time in action, had their full share in the glories of the day. On the 23d, their strong camp at Famars was forced; on which occasion the left wing of the allied army, commanded by the Duke of YORK, eminently distinguished itself. In the following month the valuable Island of Tobago, with those of St. Pierre and Miquelon, surrendered to our arms. In July, Condé, Cotsheim, Valenciennes, and Mentz, surrendered; and, in August, the Duke of YORK proceeded towards Dunkirk. Menin, from which the Dutch troops had been repulsed, was also retaken in the most spirited manner, by the British guards under General LAKE; and the strong posts of the French at Ghiveld, Turcoing, and Menin, were also carried. Quesnoy surrendered on the 11th of September to General CLAIRFAYT; and a body of 10,000 men, sent to its relief, was defeated by the Prince of COBOURG: the Duke of BRUNSWICK, on the 14th, also obtained a considerable victory over the French at Pirmasens. On the frontiers of Spain, Don RICARDOS defeated the French army off the Pyrennees, near Perpignan, with the loss of 5000 killed and wounded, ten pieces of cannon, and 1500 prisoners. On the 1st of October, a severe conflict took place on the heights of Pharon, above Toulon, in which the French were beaten. Several advantages were likewise gained by the Allies in Flanders:—in November, Fort Louis, on the Rhine, surrendered to General WURMSER, with 4000 men, and 112 pieces of ordnance. In December, St. Domingo surrendered to our arms: and, at Cape Nichola Mole alone, were found 136 pieces of cannon, twenty-

three mortars, immense quantities of stores and ammunition, and eleven merchant ships.

From the 18th to the 26th of December, the French made a series of attacks on the Allies with no less than 180,000 men, which they had collected ; and the gallant combined army, being thus completely overpowered by numbers, were compelled to relinquish many of those advantages, which they had previously gained. At sea, during the above period, the French lost no less than twelve frigates and sloops ; while, on our side, the *Thames* and *Hyena* were the only ships captured by them, and these were obliged to strike to a superior force. The French succeeded in repelling us from *Dunkirk*, by throwing into it no less than 50,000 men ; and they were indebted for the turn of the tide of fortune in their favour entirely to pouring into the field a constant stream of fresh troops, consisting of the flower of the infuriated republican army. But the most important event of the war, at this period, was the evacuation of the strong fort and fortress of *Toulon* ; where no less than fifteen ships of the line were burnt by Sir *SIDNEY SMITH*, and the intrepid naval officers under his command ; besides several frigates, on board two of which was the powder of the French magazines. We also brought off one ship of 120 guns, and two of 74 : adding to these the frigates, &c. burnt at *Leghorn*, and those abovementioned as having been captured, we shall find, that, in only the first year of the war, the French navy sustained a loss of no less than forty-five ships of war, nineteen of which were of the line.

It was certainly beyond all human foresight and calculation to imagine, that a war, so justly and gloriously begun, should be protracted through so long a series of years, and be attended with results that threatened, and had nearly attained the subjugation of all Europe, under the despotic rule of France. It was naturally anticipated, that the effects of the contest would speedily fall on the heads of some one of the successive governments of that country, whose proceedings were altogether a disgrace to the annals of mankind : but Providence, for inscrutable reasons, had ordained a long and tremendous reign of calamity to visit the earth.

The year 1794 was principally remarkable for the dreadful proceedings of the revolutionists in France, and the death of *ROBESPIERRE* and his associates under

the guillotine; notwithstanding which, their military efforts were prodigious. The King of PRUSSIA receded from the confederacy; and the Duke of BRUNSWICK, foreseeing the evils that would result from a want of unanimity amongst the confederates, resigned the command of the army. At the battle of Fleurus the Allies were totally defeated with great loss: MOREAU also gained a great victory over CLAIRFAYT, and took Yypres. Many other strong places successively surrendered to the French, under MOREAU: they afterwards besieged and took Maestricht, and PICHEGRU invaded Holland. The most dreadful disasters also befel the royalist armies in La Vendee, who were cut to pieces by the troops of the Convention. On the western borders of Spain, also, the French were equally successful; and the Austrian Netherlands were subsequently incorporated with the French nation; under the dominion of which they remained, till the glorious peace of the present year restored the balance of power.

By sea, the year 1794 was signalized by the decisive victory over the French fleet by Earl HOWE. The action took place in the Channel, on the 1st of June. The French force consisted of twenty-six ships of the line, opposed to His Majesty's fleet of twenty-five. After a desperate action, seven of the enemy remained in our possession, one of which soon afterwards sunk. Another ship, the *Revolutionnaire*, of 120 guns, had been captured on the 28th of May.

On the continent the French arms were eminently successful; and the Allies, after many a brave resistance, were overpowered by numbers, and finally discomfited. We are compelled, for want of room, to pass over a series of events, which proved but too disastrous to the allied arms, and broke up the coalition—the Dutch becoming allies of France; and shall revert merely to a chronological record of those glorious occurrences by sea, which gave a blow to the French navy, that a whole century will not enable it to recover. In 1795 the French fleet was defeated by Lord BRIDPORT; but the victory was of inferior importance to those which afterwards took place, although his lordship made such masterly manœuvres as raised him to the highest rank of eminence in his profession.

On the 14th of February, 1797, the Spanish fleet was defeated by the Earl of St. VINCENT. On this occasion the British fleet was far inferior to the enemy in number; but the superior discipline, skill, and bravery of the officers and crews

under his lordship, (then Sir JOHN JERVIS,) were considered by him as a counterpoise to this disparity. The signal being made for battle, Commodore NELSON led the van, and opposed the Spanish admiral in the *Santissima Trinidad*, a ship of four decks and 136 guns:—it is said to have been the largest ship in the world; and, though NELSON's was but a seventy-four, he not only engaged his colossal opponent, but had, for a considerable time, to contend also with her seconds, ahead and astern, each of three decks. The brilliant achievement ended in the defeat of the Spanish fleet; taking from them five sail of the line, and compelling the admiral's ship to strike, though she afterwards escaped—the enemy having twenty-five sail of the line opposed to our fifteen sail. Commodore NELSON boarded and captured two of the enemy's line; one of eighty, and the other of 112 guns—a circumstance of unparalleled bravery!

In October of the same year, Admiral Duncan gained a decisive victory over the Dutch fleet off Camperdown: he completely destroyed the enemy's fleet, captured nine ships, and made the brave admiral, DE WINTER, prisoner. For his meritorious conduct, on this occasion, he was raised to the dignity of a Viscount.

The year 1798 was the most remarkable of any in the war. That extraordinary and unparalleled character, NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE, brought from an obscurity, in which he might have lingered out an unnoticed and miserable existence, but for the influence of powerful patronage, had already made a conspicuous figure in the plains of Italy, where he had defeated the brave legions of Austria in a manner almost miraculous. Many of the continental states had been subdued more by their own defects than by the resources of the enemy, potent and formidable as these undoubtedly were,—and the ambition of the French rulers of the day seemed to aspire to nothing less than universal conquest. At this important period, the tri-coloured standard of social rebellion was seen floating from the Seine to the Tiber—from the Texel to the Garonne; and the few remaining monarchies of Europe were tottering on their bases; while Great Britain appeared on the eve of being left to struggle, single-handed, against a world in arms! Fortunately, the mad expedition to Egypt gave her an opportunity of shewing her invincible valour by sea and land, and overwhelming the common enemy of peace

with defeat, confusion, and dismay. The defeat of BUONAPARTE, at Acre, (of which we shall more particularly speak in the following pages,) elevated the military character of this nation to a point of unequalled eminence; and the previous dreadful battle of the Nile, on the 1st of August, 1798, struck a panic into the hearts of the French naval warriors, from which they never recovered. The French armament destined for Egypt had given rise to painful alarm; for it was generally supposed to be intended for the invasion of Great Britain. In the month of May, General BUONAPARTE and Admiral BRUEYS, having eluded the vigilance of the British fleet, sailed from Toulon; and, on the 9th of June, appeared before Malta. The grand master, ill-prepared for such an enemy, was unable to make effective resistance; and, in a few days, the island, with all its dependencies, capitulated. Having left 4000 in the garrison, BUONAPARTE pursued his course to Egypt; probably with a view of establishing there a French settlement, and of opening a communication with India, by the Persian Gulph or the Red Sea. Sir HORATIO NELSON was no sooner apprised of the movements of the French fleet, than he crowded all sail for the Egyptian coast; and, the French squadron not being arrived, he cruised off Canada. At length, in the month of August, returning to Alexandria, he discovered the French fleet in the Bay of Aboukir, in a compact line of battle, and protected by the batteries of Alexandria. Without regarding this advantageous position, he commenced the attack with his usual intrepidity; and, after an action of the most desperate nature for some hours, the whole squadron, with the exception of two sail of the line and two frigates, surrendered. The immediate result of the victory, therefore, was the addition of nine sail of the line to the British navy, and the diminution of eleven sail from that of France; to which it was, in every respect, a most fatal blow. More than twelve months had been employed in equipping the fleet for this expedition; and, for this purpose, the arsenal of Venice was exhausted: besides which, all the best officers and seamen had been selected to command and man the fleet. The loss of the French amounted to 5,225 men, without including the wounded and prisoners; and, excepting the subsequent battle of Trafalgar, the annals of the British navy do not present another instance of a victory so glorious and decisive. Its effects upon the general affairs of Europe

were instant and important, beyond all calculation. The inhabitants of Malta rose upon the French as soon as they heard it, and surrendered their island to the British. In another quarter, our naval forces obtained a signal advantage, by the capture of five frigates out of eight, which were sent for the invasion of Ireland. This victory of the Nile, also, infused a new spirit into the continental powers, particularly Austria and Naples. The Austrian troops took possession of the important passes in the country of the Grisons, to prevent the French from penetrating thence into Germany and the Tyrol; and they would have been, in all probability, completely checked in their career, if their favourite of fortune had not, by deserting his army, opportunely escaped, and arrived to give a new and unparalleled impulse to their military exertions.

In the mean time, the Directory had declared war against the Emperor of Germany and the Grand Duke of Tuscany; reproaching the Emperor with a violation of the treaty. At this critical time, the Emperor PAUL, of Russia, resolved to employ the whole force of his empire to rescue Europe from its sanguinary tyrants. The first detachment of his army, destined to co-operate with the Austrians in Italy, amounted to 24,000 men; and these were placed under the command of the eminent SUWARROW. The French, however, with their usual activity and treachery, penetrated Germany and Italy, during the prevalence of the armistice; and, after a desperate resistance, captured the Austrian general, AUFFENBURGH, and a large body of troops, under the walls of Coire: the reduction of the Grisons was the consequence of this victory. The plan of the French was to effect a junction between the armies of MASSENA, in Switzerland, and JOURDAN, in Germany: in this, after many desperate repulses and horrible losses of human life, they succeeded, and soon made a conquest of Switzerland; where their first effort was to form a Directory of their own creatures, who passed a law, inflicting the punishment of death on any Swiss who should refuse to join the French, and march against the Austrians. But it was not in Switzerland alone that this unprincipled outrage upon the laws of nations was exercised: similar decrees were issued at Naples, and every other part in which their horrible influence had gained an ascendancy. By this time, they had possessed themselves of those southern territories, to which they gave the name of the Transalpine, Cisalpine,

Ligurian, and Cisrhenane Republics, and had too fatally succeeded in exciting a spirit of insurrection amongst the people against their pre-existing establishments.

In the spring of 1799, SUWARROW, at the head of his invincible Russians, had advanced by forced marches into Italy, and had joined the Austrians ; but, before this junction, the latter, under General KRAY, had, after a series of attacks, conducted with a degree of skill, vigour, and perseverance that had never been exceeded, expelled the French from the neighbourhood of Mantua ; forcing them to relinquish their strong holds on the Mincia and the Adige, and retire to the Adda. On the banks of this river, rendered remarkable for the dear-bought victories, which the great plunderer of Italy, BUONAPARTE, obtained at the bridge of Lodi, SUWARROW, on the 27th of April, attacked MOREAU at different points ; and, after a most desperate action, gained a complete victory—killing 6000 men, and taking 5000 prisoners, including four generals, and eighty pieces of cannon. The consequence of this action was the total expulsion of the French from the Milanese. Marshal BELLEGARDE was equally successful in expelling the French from the Engadine ; on which, the oppressed inhabitants of the smaller Swiss cantons rose upon their tyrants, and put hundreds of them to the sword. At this time, but for the unaccountable and discreditable neutrality of the King of Prussia, there was full reason to believe, that the fetters of *French liberty* would have been completely shaken off all over the continent.

On the 14th of June, 1799, the dreadful battle of Marengo being gained by the French, the Emperor of Germany was compelled to consent to an armistice : unavailing negotiations were opened at Luneville, and thus the theatre of war was materially contracted. Meanwhile, the invasion of the French in Italy compelled the Kings of Naples and Sardinia to quit their territories ; the former, with his family, being conveyed, under the British flag, to Sicily ; after which, the French banditti found no difficulty in entering Naples : they signalized their usurpation by the atrocious murder of the loyal peasantry and lazzaroni, who vainly endeavoured to oppose their entrance.

As the summer advanced, SUWARROW, aware of the importance of celerity in his movements, surmounted every obstacle, and took possession of most of the strong fortresses in Piedmont, and even of the capital itself. He next, by a sudden and

rapid march of seventeen leagues in forty-eight hours, attacked MOREAU, before he received the reinforcements which the Directory had dispatched to him; and, after obstinate battles for three successive days, defeated him with the loss of 17,000 men. This brilliant achievement led to the surrender of Turin, Alessandria, and Mantua; while the castles of Ovo, Nuovo, and St. Elmo, on the Neapolitan territory, were surrendered to the English, sent by Lord NELSON to reduce them.

Leaving the situation of the continent in this favourable aspect, let us turn our eyes for a moment to a different quarter, and contemplate the effects of British valour on the shores of Palestine, where we shall find grounds for exultation that have seldom been equalled. There we shall see the hero of France, the conqueror of Italy, the boasted legislator of Europe, accustomed to dictate laws to subjugated nations, leading a band of chosen followers, exceeding 12,000 in number; and, with a staff eminent for skill and experience, laying siege to a small town in Asia, wretchedly fortified, and defended only by 2000 English and Mussulmans, under the command of a *naval* officer—detained before it *sixty-nine days*—foiled in eleven different attempts to carry it by storm—and ultimately obliged to retreat, defeated and disgraced; leaving behind him eight of his generals, eighty-five of his best officers, all his heavy artillery, and *one half of his army*! Posterity will not cease to remember, that the vanquished general was BUONAPARTE; the victor, Sir SIDNEY SMITH. Here NAPOLEON betrayed his real character; haughty, insolent, rapacious, and cruel in prosperity; abusive, vulgar, malignant, and false in adversity, he united with the courage of a partizan the sentiments of a pirate. His scandalous rapacity in Italy sank before his wanton cruelty in Egypt, where he massacred the inhabitants of Alexandria in cold blood, and ordered his own sick and wounded troops to be poisoned. His defeat at Acre was an event productive of such important results, that, brief as our sketch must necessarily be, we are compelled to notice them. This defeat *saved Constantinople and the Turkish empire from approaching subjugation*; for it has been since clearly proved, that, having by threats and intrigue prevailed on the numerous tribe of Druses, with 60,000 men, to join his standard, (which they could not do till Acre should be reduced,) he had declared to them his determination to plunder the Turkish capital,

and lay it in ashes. The dreadful consequences to all Europe of such an event, had it succeeded, are scarcely to be calculated; but its frustration was followed by nothing but disgrace, disappointment, and misery to him who had plundered it.

These misfortunes produced the utmost consternation in France, and caused the most furious divisions amongst the leading members of the Directory. A disposition to rise against their oppressors was evinced in many parts of France, particularly in Normandy; and, in the city of Rouen, large bills were secretly posted, with this inscription: *A bas la Republique. Vive le Roi de France, Louis XVIII! Malheur à ceux qui oseront arracher cet affiche!*—and a republican agent having been detected in pulling down one of these placards, was found the next morning murdered in his bed!

At this most interesting time, we once more find the British government eminently conspicuous in aiding the great cause. Holland had been compelled to submit to *French protection*, chiefly through the disaffection of the people, who had imbibed the revolutionary principles to their fullest extent—little aware how deeply they would soon be compelled to drink the cup of calamity, which they had so eagerly sought after. An expedition was sent to Holland, where it was joined by a large body of Russian auxiliaries and Dutch loyalists; and, no sooner had it appeared, than the Dutch fleet in the Texel surrendered, and the most sanguine expectations were again entertained; when, from a variety of causes, which could neither be anticipated nor provided against, they were most calamitously disappointed.

About this period we had accounts of the successful termination of the war in India, by which the French influence was totally destroyed, and has never since revived in that important quarter.

The most serious reverses now befel the Austrian arms in Germany, owing to the narrow-mindedness and bigotry of the *Antic Council*, who controlled the conduct of that supereminent general and real hero, the Archduke CHARLES; thus preventing him from attacking the French under the most favourable circumstances, even when the expected junction of the Russians would have enabled him to keep MASSENA at bay till the arrival of his forces from Italy; but the latter, apprised of his intention to repair to Switzerland, made his grand attack be-

fore he could come up ; and, defeating the Austrians under General HOTZE, entered Zurich. SUWARROW was, in consequence, obliged to retire into the country of the Grisons. The French Directory, magnifying this event with their usual effrontery, proclaimed the *total defeat* of the allied army in Switzerland, with the loss of 30,000 men ; and thus succeeded in raising new myriads for slaughter !

The grand object of the expedition to Holland, which was the restoration of the government of the Stadtholder, was now totally abandoned : a convention was signed for the return of our troops, and the prisoners we had taken (8000 in number) were unconditionally restored. In short, the year 1799, which had opened with the most animating prospects, terminated with general disappointment to the advocates of the good cause ; and, though BARRAS, the original patron of BUONAPARTE, had formed a plan for the restoration of monarchy, this daring usurper, having deserted his army in Egypt, and secretly returned to Paris, overthrew the Directory, and established the *Consular Government*, with himself at its head. Thus, not only the revolution of the 18th Fructidor, but the chequered events of the year, rendered it one of the most remarkable of the whole period of the war.

The first scheme of the great *Consul*, and one to which he ever afterwards adhered, was founded on the Machiavelian policy : *Divide et impera*. In his separate overtures to the allied powers, he studied to sow dissensions and mistrust amongst them all ; but, his character now being well understood, all confidence in him was abolished. Fortunately for Europe, the shallow artifices of this usurper were despised by the British government. True to the principles which they had invariably professed, they called upon France, if she sincerely wished for peace, “ *to renounce her views of aggression and aggrandizement, and to confine herself within her own territories, without insulting other governments—without disturbing their tranquillity—without violating their rights !*” Happy would it have been for France, and the rest of the world, if such wise advice had been listened to !

The year 1800 passed without any material military or naval occurrence on the part of Great Britain ; but it had scarcely commenced before a new coalition was formed between this country, Austria, and Russia, to repress the ambitious views of France—Austria having peremptorily rejected a proposition from the First

Consul for a separate peace. The battle of Marengo, (previously alluded to) at which BUONAPARTE commanded in person, had decided the fate of Italy ; though it was to the provident conduct of the French general, DESSAIX, that the victory, after nine hours desperate fighting, was mainly attributable. Switzerland was, in consequence of this victory, again placed under the foot of France.

Obedient to the mandate of his tyrant, the fallen monarch of Spain embraced the murderers of his family, and proclaimed war against his neighbours and Allies, the Portuguese, who had incurred the enmity of the French Republic for adhering faithfully to their treaties with the Spanish throne. But, while France was triumphing over the whole of the south of Europe, Great Britain was preparing a blow for her power in the north and the east, which astonished the universe. France had succeeded in gaining, by intrigue, a new and powerful ally in the person of the Emperor Paul ; but his intentions were frustrated by his *sudden death*, the causes and manner of which are too well known to require expatiation. To counteract the views of Denmark, and shake this new northern confederacy, a British fleet was dispatched to the North Sea, where it obtained a victory over the Danes, which reflected immortal honour on the hero of the Nile ; who, though only second in command, thought proper to make an attempt, which produced the most decisive results, and struck a panic amongst all the subordinate powers of the north. The exultation of the British was heightened by the valiant defence of the Danes : the action took place on the 2d of April, 1801 ; and the result was the capture or destruction of seventeen sail of the enemy.

This disaster induced BUONAPARTE to make those propositions, which led to a negociation for peace, and produced the Preliminary Treaty of October. In the interval, intelligence arrived of the glorious battles of Aboukir and Alexandria—battles, which placed our military on a level with our naval character. The conduct of the lamented Commander-in-Chief, Sir RALPH ABERCROMBIE, was beyond all eulogium : he concealed for two hours the bitter anguish of a *mortal wound*, and sank to a hero's tomb, amidst the blessings of his army, and the admiration of mankind. The *legion* on which BUONAPARTE had arrogantly bestowed the title of *invincible*, was conquered and destroyed by a regiment of Highlanders ;

and this victory fully confirmed the Turks in the high ideas they had entertained of our prowess.

The treaty of peace, concluded under a belief that BUONAPARTE and his minions were heartily tired of hostilities, and inclined to maintain good faith with this country, was hailed by the populace, who set no bounds to their joy; but it was too soon found, that no reliance was to be placed in his professions, even when sanctioned by the most sacred obligations. Fifteen months sufficed to shew, that the peace was a *misnomer*: it was only a “hollow-armed truce,” which placed this country in infinitely more danger than she had been at any time during the late hostilities. The first act of BUONAPARTE after the treaty, was, to set the seal to his power, by causing himself to be proclaimed *Consul for life*, with the strange authority of nominating his successor, and keeping the nomination secret as long as he might please; or, finally to bequeath the Gallic empire to his heirs, though *pretending* to consult the will of about one-eighth part of the population.

Although it is not compatible with our limits to give the particulars of the treaties by which this peace was established, we must observe, that the absolute independence of the Helvetic Republic was not only formally recognized by France, but this recognition was peremptorily prescribed by the First Consul, as an indispensable article in all the treaties which he signed with the foreign powers. Yet, on the 30th of September, 1802, he issued a proclamation to the Swiss, telling them, that, on account of the *miseries* to which their intestine commotions subjected them, he would take upon himself to be their mediator; and that they must consider his interference as a *benefit from Providence*: and commanding them to send deputies from each canton to Paris. This attempt was of itself a violation of the last treaties with all the European powers. Great Britain was impelled to dispute this *right* assumed by the Consul, to dispose of independent nations according to his pleasure; and, as it was ascertained that he was fitting out a large naval armament in the Dutch ports; while the Emperor of Russia had, by some strange infatuation of the moment, been induced to form an alliance with him; and Prussia, urged by selfish policy and her inveterate hatred to Austria, was taking means to aggrandize herself at the expense of the head of the German empire, it was impossible for this country any longer to remain indecisive. A new declara-

tion of war was accordingly promulgated on the 16th of May, 1803, which set out with stating, that, “in consequence of the repeated insults and provocations which His Majesty had experienced from the government of France, he was compelled to take such measures as were necessary for vindicating the honour of his crown, and the just rights of his subjects,” &c.

Never was a measure more popular than this resolution of the British cabinet: there seemed to be no difference of opinion on the subject amongst those statesmen, whose characters and principles were entitled to respect, (with one solitary exception in Mr. Fox); and, to the honour of our Royal Dukes, their speeches on the subject, in the House of Peers, made every heart beat responsive to the truly British sentiments which flowed from their lips. The enthusiasm of the whole empire was wonderful and unparalleled; and all party differences seemed suspended, to promote that object, which every true Englishman and loyal subject had nearest to his heart. The Consul became furious at the frustration of his secret objects; and, calling forth every resource from his own slaves and vassals, threatened our country with invasion and destruction. The vain-boasting threat was met with defiance; and, operating with electric effect amongst her population, Great Britain saw with pride, in a few months, 500,000 of her sons in arms, *voluntarily* standing forth as the champions of her soil, and enduring all the fatigues of military practice, to qualify themselves for repelling the veteran legions of the enemy, should they ever dare to contaminate with their presence this highly-favoured land. Some persons pretend to doubt whether it was ever the serious intention of France to attempt an invasion of this country, (for ourselves, we have no doubt that it was);—but it is certain, that this enthusiasm alone convinced the tyrant of the futility of the enterprise, and he never dared to put it in execution. The inveteracy of the Corsican towards this country, certainly, gave a stimulus to our exertions, by convincing us what we had to expect in case of conquest: for, in one of his official declarations, he had the audacity to hold out Great Britain as an object for plunder. “In order to make the booty the richer,” said this desperate chief, “*no quarter shall be given to the base English, who fight for their perfidious government; they are to be put to the sword, and their property to be distributed amongst the soldiers of the victorious army!*”

The first measure of BUONAPARTE, on the renewal of the war, was to dispatch his legions to quarter themselves in those countries, which he had deprived of their independence. The King of PRUSSIA, to the astonishment of all Europe, at this time stood neutral, and suffered the French hordes to traverse his territory—to violate the independence of the Hans Towns, and desolate countries, which he was bound to protect: it was, however, urged, and we believe on good foundation, that the Prussian army was at this time so completely *jacobinised*, that to have called it to the field might have endangered the monarchy, and caused the desertion of the troops to France. The seeds of jealousy were also sown, by French emissaries, between the Emperor of GERMANY and his subordinate princes, the Electors; and, as inducements to shake off their allegiance to the head of the empire, they were promised, by BUONAPARTE, indemnities out of the dominions of certain ecclesiastical princes of Germany. But, while he was thus inciting some of the petty princes to acts of rebellion, in other states he was carrying on the work of plunder and devastation without resistance. Hanover, though allowed to remain at peace during the late war, and whose neutrality was respected even by ROBESPIERRE, was invaded, desolated, and ruined, because its Elector was Sovereign of England. The Neapolitan and Papal dominions did not escape the general pillage: their independence was violated, and the fortresses of both were seized and garrisoned by French troops—while the lawful heir of the Duchy of Parma and Placentia was deprived of his inheritance:—in short, so numerous and flagrant were BUONAPARTE's violations of the laws of nations, and his public robberies, that our limits will not enable us to recount them. But we must not omit the mention of one horrible and most atrocious act of the usurper, soon after he caused himself to be declared *Emperor* of the French, which alone was sufficient to eternally stigmatize his name. A prince of the House of Bourbon, the virtuous and gallant Duke D'ENGHIEN, who had nobly distinguished himself during the late war against the murderers of his family and despoilers of his property, had retired to a small estate in the dominions of the Elector of BADEN; where he was passing his life in retirement, when the usurper resolved to sacrifice him to his vengeance. The neutral territory was accordingly violated; and the prince, being seized and hurried to Paris, was consigned to a

band of military assassins, who, after a mock trial, sentenced him to be shot: the sentence was executed in the wood of Vincennes, by an Italian banditti, at the dark hour of midnight. This atrocious action aroused the Emperors of RUSSIA and GERMANY from their apparent lethargy: they prepared for war, and PRUSSIA even made dispositions to follow the general impulse. While the last-mentioned sovereign, however, remained in a state of indecision, another atrocious outrage was performed by the minions of the Corsican; who seized Sir GEORGE RUMBOLD, the British minister at Hamburgh; and, carrying him into France, no doubt put him to death, as they did the gallant Captain WRIGHT in the temple—for he was never afterwards heard of.

The spirited conduct of our ministry, in demanding a direct answer from Spain respecting her intentions, and the detaining of some Spanish ships, laden with money, intended for the support of France, brought on a new war between Spain and England; and Austria also found it necessary to declare once more against France. The usurper, always beforehand with his adversaries, soon marched his hordes through Westphalia, to attack the strong fortresses of the empire; and Prussia, with a large army in the field, stood a quiet spectator of this invasion of her territory—although she had it in her power to contest the passage of the French troops through Westphalia, and thus give time to the Austrians to join her. The successes of the French were astonishing. Owing to the stupidity or treachery of the superannuated General MACK, the impregnable fortress of Ulm was surrendered to them without a siege; and, at the dreadful battle of Austerlitz, the Austrians, after displaying consummate bravery, were obliged to retreat through Vienna, which the French triumphantly entered.

The 21st of October, 1805, (the very day on which Ulm surrendered) was signalized by the most brilliant achievement, which has ever dignified the naval annals of Britain: on that day occurred the ever-memorable battle of Trafalgar. The immortal NELSON had been engaged for almost two years and a half in blockading the harbour of Toulon; but a squadron, having escaped in March, 1805, formed a junction with the Spanish fleet at Cadiz, whence they again sailed, and nothing but conjecture prevailed as to their destination. But as soon as the intelligence reached Lord NELSON, his penetrating mind immediately conceived they

must have gone to the West Indies; and thither he followed them. The enemy, though confident in superior force, were appalled with terror at his lordship's name; and, after capturing part of a convoy from Antigua, returned from Martinique, without having effected any one object for which they had sailed. Meanwhile, the servile *Moniteur* was boasting of the grand end in view; and asserting, that the great object of the expedition would be first known by *the blow* that would be struck. The first blow, however, was given by Sir R. CALDER, who fell in with the enemy on the 22d of July, and captured two Spanish ships of the line; but the fleet afterwards eluded his pursuit, and got into Cadiz. In the mean time, Lord NELSON, confident that the enemy were flying before him, returned to England; but, soon afterwards, sailed with unlimited powers to take the command of the fleet, which was blockading them in their own harbour. His force was now so nearly equivalent to their's, that the result of a contest was placed beyond all doubt; and, by dint of artifice, his lordship succeeded in drawing them from their lurking-place—an event, which caused the sacrifice of his invaluable life, but by which he has raised to himself so astonishing a monument of immortality, that succeeding heroes must gaze at it with awe and admiration.

On the 21st of October, at daylight, the enemy was discovered six or seven miles to the eastward of Cape Trafalgar: the commander-in-chief immediately made the signal for the fleet to bear up in two columns—a mode of attack his lordship had previously directed. The enemy's line consisted of thirty-three ships; of which eighteen were French, and fifteen Spanish, commanded in chief by Admiral VILLENEUVE. The Spaniards, under the direction of Admiral GRAVINA, wore with their heads to the northward, and formed their line of battle with great closeness and correctness; but as the mode of attack was unusual, so the structure of their line was new. It formed a crescent, converging to leeward; so that, in leading down to their centre, the British had both their van and rear abaft the beam. Before the fire opened, every alternate ship was about a cable's length to windward of her second, ahead and astern—forming a kind of double line, and appeared, when on their beams, to leave a very little interval between them. Admiral VILLENEUVE was in the *Bucentaur*, in the centre; and the Prince of Austria's bore GRAVINA's flag in the rear: but the French and Spanish ships were mixed, without any regard to order of national squadron.

LORD NELSON, in the *Victory*, led the weather column; and the *Royal Sovereign*, with Admiral COLLINGWOOD'S flag, the lee. The action began at noon, by the leading ships of the columns breaking through the enemy's line, in all parts, and engaging them at the muzzles of their guns. The conflict was dreadful: the enemy's ships were fought with admirable gallantry; but nothing could withstand British intrepidity, and our fleet gained a complete and glorious victory—having captured nineteen ships of the line, with three flag-officers.

A circumstance occurred during the action, which is, perhaps, unequalled. The *Temeraire* was boarded by a French ship on one side, and a Spaniard on the other: the contest was vigorous; but it ended in our brave tars tearing the ensigns from both ships, and hoisting the British in their places.

About the middle of the action, the immortal NELSON received a musket-ball in his left breast; and, having sent an officer to Admiral COLLINGWOOD with his last farewell, soon afterwards expired. The last telegraphic order, which his lordship gave before the action, was short, but comprehensive:—" *England expects every man to do his duty!*" Most bravely, by sea and land, have our nation's hope, in the army and navy, fulfilled this patriotic expectation.

A new confederacy was now formed against the tyrant of France. Scarcely had the unparalleled victory of NELSON been celebrated, when a rival hero, in all the ardour of youth and pride of honour, stood forth, the avenger of degraded Europe. The Emperor ALEXANDER, after fully disclaiming all views of ambition and projects of aggrandizement, devoted not only his legions, but his own sacred person, to the great cause; and the desperate actions fought in the beginning of December, 1805, between Brunn and Olmutz, taught the French, by dear-bought experience, that the Russian soldiers were far different from what their unprincipled marauder had led them to believe. A body of Russian hussars, dismounted, opposed, hand to hand, the Corsican's body-guard of boasted *invincibles*, and totally defeated them, cutting nearly the whole corps to pieces; while that consummate general, the Archduke CHARLES, fought his way from Italy, and was about to join the main army behind Vienna. Yet, at this critical moment, when the highest expectations were entertained of the success of the Allies, the Emperor FRANCIS, by an unaccountable pusillanimity, consented to a truce,

which led to the Peace of Presburgh, and placed his dignity, his territory, and even his political existence, at the feet of BUONAPARTE! Thus, at the commencement of the year 1806, England saw the whole continent of Europe, with the exception of Russia, either conquered by, or acquiescent to, the will of France; and, to make up the climax of misfortune, the world was, at this precise period, deprived of the greatest statesman who ever benefitted a nation, by a long and disinterested exercise of unequalled talents. On the 23d of January died the immortal WILLIAM PITT!

The reward bestowed by BUONAPARTE on the King of PRUSSIA, for his infatuated neutrality during the late battles with Austria, was the surrender to him of Hanover, under the pretext of ensuring peace to the north of Germany; a peace, however, which existed only a few short months. The Emperor of AUSTRIA, as the result of the peace which *he* concluded, was compelled to resign his title of Emperor of Germany; and the rest of the year passed without any event on the continent, that demands our notice. The Emperor of RUSSIA, foreseeing, with a sort of prophetic spirit, how soon he must again interfere, made extraordinary levies throughout his immense empire, and declared his resolution to increase his army, if necessary, to a million of men. Another less fortunate hero, GUSTAVUS, King of Sweden, also made every effort within his limited means, to stop the approaching system of desolation; and it ought to be recorded, that his character and conduct, throughout the contest, entitled him to a better fate than that which ultimately befel him.

A negociation for peace between this country and France was set on foot by the new ministry; but it ended in the dismissal of Lord LAUDERDALE by the usurper: and the autumn *again* beheld Prussia and Saxony in arms against France, with a force of not less than 220,000 men; while Austria appeared as a spectator, completely armed at every point--and the Russians and Swedes were already in the field. It was estimated that, in this new contest, the Allies, exclusive of Austria and Britain, could bring 450,000 men into the field; and, with the former, no less than 700,000. The capture of the Cape, the reduction of Buenos Ayres, and the defeat of a French squadron by Admiral DUCKWORTH, were the advantages gained by England in this year: but these were the works of

the late ministry of Mr. PITT. To the crimes of BUONAPARTE was added the atrocious murder of the unfortunate bookseller, PALM, for selling books reflecting on his government.

At the commencement of 1807, every eye was fixed on the coasts of the Baltic: it was here that the immediate fate of Europe was to be decided. A mighty contest was inevitable between the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia, on the one part; and BUONAPARTE, now Emperor of France and King of Italy, on the other. The latter derived support from the nations he had subdued or intimidated; the former depended on the aid of Sweden and the vigorous co-operation of Great Britain. This was the fourth coalition against the ruler of France; and this wily person did not view it without apprehension: for he laboured, though vainly, to detach the King of Sweden from the cause; but he successfully roused the Turks to war against Russia, and entered into a negociation for an alliance with the Emperor of Persia. In several of the early battles with the Russians, the French proved successful; and eighty-four pieces of cannon, taken from them, were pompously ranged before the palace at Warsaw: but all these successes were most grossly exaggerated in the French bulletins and papers. After the battle of Pultusk, the French retired into winter quarters on the Vistula; the Russians fell back on the Niemen, and the King and Queen of Prussia retreated to Memel. The Russian army, according to some computations, was 160,000 strong; and the strength of the French army, 200,000. BUONAPARTE put himself at the head of his army on the 31st of January; and the Russians retreated on the Lower Vistula, fighting all the way, and suffering severely from the capture of their magazines at Liebstadt and the vicinity. Several severe actions with divisions of each army terminated in favour of the French. The dreadful battle of Eylau, on the 8th of February, was maintained for twelve hours; during the whole of which, nearly 300 pieces of cannon vomited death from opposite lines, so near each other, that the havoc was beyond description. Both parties claimed the victory; but the credibility of success rested with the Russians, whose general, BENNIGSEN, sent to the emperor twelve standards, taken from the French, and asserted, that the loss of the latter was 12,000, and his own 6,000. At all events, this was a drawn battle, and the severest check NAPOLEON had received since the commencement

of his career in Italy, which was in 1796. This battle saved Königsburgh from the French. The latter, after remaining seven days on the field of battle, renewed their operations, and gained many advantages over the Allies. During this interval, repeated and earnest applications were made to the administration of that time, by the Allies, for an English army ; and a subsidy of 500,000*l.* was at length granted ; but no troops were sent till it was too late. Meanwhile, the French had captured Dantzic, after a long siege. The change of ministry in Britain, on the 24th of March, inspired the Allies with new hopes ; but BUONAPARTE, with words of peace in his mouth, and a thirst for war in his heart, having drawn together immense reinforcements of every description, could not be withstood. By the impetuosity of his troops, aided by the consummate skill of his marshals, he took the town of Friedland on the 14th of June, and the Russians repassed the Pregel. The French, at this time, had certainly 60,000 more troops in the field than the Allies. On the 19th of June, BUONAPARTE entered Tilsit ; and, an armistice being agreed on, it terminated in the peace bearing the name of that town—the two emperors, NAPOLEON and ALEXANDER, having met, for the first time, on a raft, on the River Niemen. The peace was signed on the 7th of July ; and the great sacrifice was, the kingdom of Prussia, which was reduced to a secondary province ; and thus all that had been effected for its aggrandizement, by the great FREDERIC, in twenty years, was undone in a single day.

BUONAPARTE was now left at liberty to contemplate the means of venting his inveterate hatred against England ; and he vainly thought, that, by striking a grand blow at our commercial prosperity, he should effect the ruin of this country. He accordingly fulminated his absurd decrees for blockading all the ports of Great Britain, though not having a ship that dared to put to sea without the danger of being captured : but he so far executed his frantic design, as to exclude British goods from all the ports of the continent under his influence. This measure was counteracted, by every possible means, by the administration of Mr. PERCEVAL ; but the unfortunate Treaty of Tilsit involved us in a new war with Russia ; and the autumn of 1807 saw us in possession of the Danish fleet, which was captured, after the bombardment of Copenhagen, by Lords GAMBIER and CATHCART ; while BUONAPARTE attacked Portugal ; and, on the 29th of No-

venember, the Prince Regent and his family were triumphantly carried, under British protection, to his colonies in the Brazils.

The invasion of Spain, that immortal field of British glory, was now undertaken by the French, after having infamously massacred the Portuguese in Lisbon, on the 12th of January, 1808. On the 15th of February they possessed themselves of Pampeluna by treachery; and, on the 18th of March, disturbances broke out at Madrid. The next day, the old king, CHARLES IV. subdued by French intrigue, resigned his crown to FERDINAND VII. but he was compelled, by BUONAPARTE, to give it back again in April, who reinstated his father. This was preparatory to the excuse for kidnapping the Spanish royal family, and conveying them to France; for, after a diabolical massacre of the Spaniards at Madrid, on the 2d of May, CHARLES resigned his kingdom to BUONAPARTE, who appointed his brother, JOSEPH, King of Spain and the Indies. A general insurrection immediately followed against the French, and the mighty aid of Britain was no sooner invoked than granted. Peace was signed between Spain and England on the 6th of June; and, on the 14th, the French fleet in Cadiz harbour surrendered to the patriots. The efforts of this loyal body were astonishingly successful. On the 1st of July they defeated General MONCEY, in Valentia, with great loss; and, on the 19th, the whole army of DUPONT was compelled to surrender to the patriots under CASTANOS. In the following month, General LEBEVRE was defeated a second time, with immense loss, by the patriots under CASTANOS. While these great events were going on, the temporal power of the Pope was annihilated; and MURAT was made King of Naples, in the room of JOSEPH BUONAPARTE.

On the 21st of August a great battle took place in Portugal; in which the French army, under JUNOT, were defeated by the British and Allies, under Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY, at Vimiera. The battle was desperate. The French impetuously attacked the British with fixed bayonets, but were driven back with the same weapon: three times they renewed the attack, and as often were repulsed by the superior intrepidity and strength of the British arm. At last, they fled; leaving thirteen pieces of cannon, twenty-three ammunition-waggons, and 3000 killed and wounded:—our loss was about 1000. The result was a convention; by

which the British and French generals agreed to evacuate Portugal. The Russian fleet in the Tagus was afterwards surrendered to the British. The advantages of this victory would have been greater, but for the superseding of Sir A. WELLESLEY by Sir H. DALRYMPLE, at the moment of victory—the latter general not thinking fit to pursue the enemy. Sir JOHN MOORE, being afterwards appointed to the chief command, proceeded to Corunna; where a dreadful battle took place, after the British army had performed a harrassing march of 250 miles, from Betanzos, over a mountainous country, and so much straitened for supplies, that the most discreditable acts of insubordination prevailed amongst the officers and men. They arrived in sight of the French army, under SOULT, Duke of Dalmatia, on the 11th of January; but in such a distressful condition, that, on the 16th, orders were issued for their embarkation. The French, aware of our situation, and being themselves in excellent condition, pressed upon us, to perform their threat of driving us into the sea, and a general action took place. On this occasion, not more than 15,000 of our fatigued and sickly troops were opposed to 20,000 of the French. We, nevertheless, remained masters of the field; and, the next day, the whole of our troops were safely embarked, with the exception of about 5000 or 6000 men, out of 20,000, who fell victims to the peculiarity of their situation. The loss of all the magazines, ammunition, and 5000 horses, completed the only calamity which happened to us in Spain.

The withdrawing of the British force gave BUONAPARTE an opportunity to pursue his designs upon Spain. JOSEPH was crowned king of that country at Madrid. At this period, a new jealousy of BUONAPARTE, at the military preparations of Austria, induced him, as he said to his Senate, to retrace his steps, in order to plant his eagles on the ramparts of Vienna. Leaving, therefore, a considerable body of troops in Spain, under some of his most experienced marshals, they gained many important advantages over the brave but undisciplined patriots; while he, with unparalleled alacrity, attacked the Austrian forces; and, by gaining several successes of vast importance, entered Vienna on the 12th of May. At Aspern and Esslingen, however, on the 22d, he was defeated by the Archduke CHARLES, after two most dreadful battles, which were harder fought, and more destructive, than those of Prussian Eylau; and the

French were obliged to retire to the Island of Lobau, in the Danube. The loss on both sides was very great, each party being determined to conquer or die ; that of the French was ascertained to amount to 30,000 men. In June the French, under EUGENE BEAUHARNOIS, defeated the Austrians on the Raab, and drove them into Hungary ; and, at length, after a lapse of six weeks, during which BUONAPARTE had received great reinforcements, he re-crossed the Danube at midnight, turned the Austrian camp, and, taking the Austrian army by surprise, completely defeated them. Another armistice was then agreed to, which ended in the Peace of Vienna, of the 14th of October ; by which the unfortunate Emperor was compelled to cede *all his sea coast* to France, and to confine himself within the limits which BUONAPARTE had assigned to him. He was also obliged to submit to the degradation of giving his daughter, the Archduchess MARIA LOUISA, in marriage to BUONAPARTE, who had formally divorced his wife, JOSEPHINE, for the purpose ; and the marriage took place, by proxy, at Vienna, on the 11th of March, 1810. By this peace the states of Bavaria and Saxony were greatly increased, and Russia obtained as much of the territories of Galicia as contained 400,000 souls.

On the part of Great Britain, the year 1809 was signalized by the glorious victory of Talavera, which took place on the 28th of July. After a battle, obstinately contested for two successive days, and fought under circumstances, which brought both armies into close contact, the British, sustaining the whole weight of the contest, had the glory of vanquishing a French force of double their numbers. Entire brigades of French infantry were destroyed, and their whole loss was estimated at 10,000 men. For this great victory, Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY was created a Viscount.

By sea our operations were equally prosperous. The French fleet in Basque Roads were attacked by Lord COCHRANE ; and, out of nine or ten sail of the line, and some frigates, seven were driven ashore, and four of the line blown up at their anchorage. We also took the Ionian Islands, and restored their government ; and Martinique and the city of Domingo were added to our colonial captures. The unfortunate expedition to Walcheren was the only affair that threw a gloom over our successes.

Having now progressively led our readers to the year 1810, we must be more brief in our chronological record. In this year, BUONAPARTE annexed the kingdom of Holland to France, and caused BERNADOTTE to be elected Crown Prince of Sweden. In Spain, Marshal NEY captured Ciudad Rodrigo ; but the partial successes of the French in that country were destined soon to be at an end. Early in 1811, Lord WELLINGTON pursued MASSENA from Santarem ; and, on the 5th of March, 3000 British, under General GRAHAM, defeated Marshal VICTOR, who had 8000 French. On the 5th of May, Lord WELLINGTON repulsed MASSENA's army before Almeida ; and, on the 16th, SOULT was triumphantly defeated by General BERESFORD and the Allies, in the battle of Albuera, though it was admitted that "the enemy's overbearing cavalry crippled all our operations, and, with his artillery, saved his infantry after its route." In the south of Spain, where the patriots were deprived of British assistance, the French, under SUCHET, defeated them, and took several strong places.

In January, 1812, Lord WELLINGTON took Ciudad Rodrigo by storm ; and, on the 6th of April, Badajoz fell to his victorious arms in the same manner. On the 19th of May, General HILL defeated the French at Almaraz. On the 22d of July the great battle of Salamanca took place ; in which Lord WELLINGTON totally defeated MARMONT, taking eleven cannon, and 7000 prisoners : he then immediately marched upon, and captured Madrid. Soon afterwards, SOULT's army were driven from their powerful works before Cadiz, and the Allies took possession of Seville.

While the British army was thus covering itself in Spain with imperishable laurels, the flames of war burst out in the north of Europe, *for the last time*, with unparalleled violence. BUONAPARTE had long been making enormous preparations for an attack upon Russia, on the ground that the Emperor had not adhered to the Treaty of Tilsit ; by desisting from aiding France in the war of 1809, by admitting English goods into his ports, and by issuing the protest against Oldenburgh. In this new war, BUONAPARTE was aided by the Poles, by Prussia, and the different petty sovereigns of Germany, whom he had allured by promises, or dragged forward by threats. On the 9th of May this ambitious favourite of fickle fortune left the Palace of St. Cloud ; on the 13th he crossed the Rhine ; on

the 29th, the Elbe ; and, on the 6th of June, the Vistula. The Emperor ALEXANDER also left St. Petersburg, on the 22d of April, to take the command of his army.

Nothing ever equalled the bombastic proclamations which BUONAPARTE issued to his soldiers. In his second bulletin, speaking of Russia, “ Her destinies (said he) must be accomplished. Let us carry the war into her territories ! But the peace which we shall conclude will be its own guarantee ; and will put an end to that proud and haughty influence, which Russia has, for fifty years, exercised in the affairs of Europe ! ”

When the French Emperor put himself at the head of his armies, such a spectacle was, perhaps, never presented in the world. His troops could have amounted to no less than half a million of men—all in the finest state of equipment ; with artillery innumerable, and supplies most abundant, of every description. All the countries through which he had passed were compelled to send, weekly, all manner of necessaries ; and new troops were daily arriving, to augment his imposing force. Equal exertions were made by Russia ; and the eyes of all Europe were fixed in awful observance of the occurrences on this new theatre of war.

On the 24th of July, BUONAPARTE crossed the Niemen. Nothing but skirmishing, on a large scale, took place ; and the Russian army retreated in the best order, progressively dragging on the enemy to the destruction which awaited him. On the 18th of August the French occupied Smolensko, after a battle in which, on both sides, 100,000 men were engaged. The city was set on fire by the Russians, previous to its evacuation ; and the Russian bulletin asserted, that its capture cost the enemy 20,000 men.

The battle of Borodino was still more desperate : it took place on the 11th of September. This was a general action, in which both parties displayed prodigies of valour. BUONAPARTE’s bulletin stated, that 60,000 cannon-shot were fired by the French alone, and that all the villages were filled with dead and wounded. The Russian bulletin said, that the enemy were defeated on every side, and that eight guns were captured from them. The Russians, however, retreated through Moscow, which the French afterwards entered, only to find it a mass of ruins. In re-

venge for this disappointment, BUONAPARTE ordered one hundred of the inhabitants to be seized and shot!

It is remarkable, that in the Proclamation issued by order of the Emperor ALEXANDER, after the possession of Moscow, the fate of the enemy was anticipated, and his audacious irruption was pointedly prognosticated as the certainty of his approaching ruin; a prediction which was soon awfully fulfilled.

At the end of October the winter set in with uncommon severity; and, BUONAPARTE, contrary to the advice of his most experienced friends, having persisted in remaining at Moscow till the 9th of November, was then obliged to retreat to Smolensko in the greatest distress, harassed and pursued by the Russians in all the vigour of health. Nothing but successes now followed in the train of the latter. At Krasnoi, Berissow, the Borisina, and Smorgoni, the enemy, incapable of effectual resistance, were almost annihilated; from this latter place, BUONAPARTE fled from his wretched troops, in disguise, and after scarcely credible adventures, arrived at Paris, at midnight, on the 18th of December. Of the whole French army not more than 30,000 is supposed to have re-entered Germany: all the rest having fallen victims to the climate, to starvation, or the engines of war.

No less than 300,000 French soldiers were ascertained to have perished in this dreadful campaign. Indeed, such a horrible scene as the retreat from Russia presented was never before witnessed in the civilized world.

This disaster immediately led to a coalition to recover the liberties of Europe. The King of Prussia was the first to shake off the yoke of BUONAPARTE, who had previously tried to make him *surrender the cares of royalty*; and nothing ever exceeded the joy of his people at this occurrence. The corps of the brave General D'YORCK had previously gone over to the Russians, and a large army of Prussians, in a few weeks, took the field against their late Allies, the French: from the renewal of the campaign in May, down to the hour of the peace of Paris, their career was one mass of brilliant successes. The armistice proposed in June, by the Emperor of AUSTRIA, having failed in producing a congress, entirely through the outrageous ambition of BUONAPARTE, that monarch, as well as the King of BAVARIA, turned against him with all his military power. It is only necessary to add, that in Bohemia, Silesia, Lusatia, and Saxony, the armies of Russia,

Austria, and Prussia did wonders: their successes, however, were damped by the death of the great and good MOREAU, who had come from the interior of America to aid the Allies by his comprehensive genius.

But the consummation of military glory took place in Spain, where the name of WELLINGTON and a British army has been immortalized by the battle of Vittoria; and the French in that country were soon reduced to a few bands of wandering fugitives. This ever-memorable engagement took place on the 21st of June, 1813. JOSEPH BUONAPARTE was endeavouring to escape into France; and the French army, under Marshal JOURDAN, was drawn up to protect his flight, and secure his plunder. The allied army, under Lord WELLINGTON, attacked the enemy, drove them from all their positions, took from them 151 pieces of cannon, 415 waggons of ammunition, all their baggage, provisions, cattle, and treasure, and a vast number of prisoners. In short, the victory was of that decisive nature, that it crushed the last hopes of the enemy for the subjugation of Spain, and they were finally driven beyond the Pyrennees. An invasion of France was afterwards attempted, and completely succeeded; and, at the very time when the Allies had entered Paris, the British were also hailed in the South of France, as contributors to the delivery of the people from the galling despotism they had existed under for twenty years.

In the north of Europe, the battle of Leipsig was the event which rendered the tyrant's overthrow inevitable. He *again* escaped, and *again* might he have recovered his preponderance, and have been permitted to remain upon the throne of France; but, under the influence of an infatuation, which fully exemplified the Roman adage,

“ Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat,”

he rejected all the liberal overtures of the Allies; and, in the spring of the present year, he was beheld leaving France as a fugitive, obliged to assume the disguise of a Russian, to protect himself from the vengeance of that very people, who had so long been taught to look up to him as a demi-god!

In the insignificant Island of Elba, shorn of his dazzling glories and unbounded power, he is now deposited; where he is suffered, as it were, out of ridicule to his ambition, to assume a sort of *mock majesty*, for the indignant derision of

existing generations ; while his character and conduct, throughout his long permitted career, will not fail to excite the contempt and abhorrence of ages yet unborn.

We shall conclude our brief and rapid sketch with the following admirable state paper ; being a Declaration as delivered in the Senate of St. Petersburg, June 28, 1814.

We Alexander I. by the grace of God Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias.

“ The war kindled by the foe of the general tranquillity—by the irreconcilable enemy of Russia ; the war, so lately carried into the very heart of our native land, has been removed to his own country, and overwhelmed him with all its horrors. He had filled the measure of the patience of the Most High, the Protector of Justice.

“ The Almighty armed Russia, in order to confer liberty, through her means, on the nations and states, and to raise again those who had fallen under oppression. The year 1812, so unfortunate on account of the wounds which it was necessary to receive in the very heart of the empire, in order to frustrate the guilty designs of an ambitious enemy, has, nevertheless, raised Russia to the pinnacle of glory—has exhibited her, in all her grandeur, to the whole world, and laid the foundation of the liberty of nations.

“ It was to our great regret, and after we had tried all other means of preventing an unjust war, that we had recourse to arms : a melancholy necessity compelled us to draw the sword. The dignity of the people whom Providence has been pleased to commit to our care, forbid us to sheath it while the enemy remained on our soil. We made a solemn vow to that effect—not in the moment of success—not while dazzled by the resplendence of glory, or seduced by ambition. Our prayers, offered up at the foot of the altars of the Most High, arose from a pure heart, and were prompted by a firm confidence in his justice. Strong in conscious integrity, and in the goodness of our cause, we implored his protection with security. We undertook an arduous work ; we have accomplished it with the divine assistance.

“ The general and unanimous spirit of our beloved and faithful subjects, and their known love for their country, strengthened our hopes. The Russian nobility, the solid pillar of the throne, and on which the greatness of the empire has always rested ; the ministers of the altars, whose piety confirmed us in the path

of religion; the merchant and the tradesman, so distinguished for the services which they render to the state,—in a word, all classes spared no sacrifice. The peaceful husbandman, till then a stranger to the tumults of arms, seized them to defend his faith, his country, and his monarch: the sacrifice of life appeared to him but a trifle. Slavery is a sentiment unknown to the heart of the Russian; never did he bow his head to a foreign power. He who attempted to subject him to the yoke has been quickly punished. If enemies have penetrated, by force of arms, into his country, he points to the graves that cover their carcasses. Thus it is that the Almighty raises those who put their trust in him. The enemy fled before us: a small number escaped to make known his discomfiture. 'Tis thus that God punishes the ambitious!

“The enemy, however, levied fresh armies, and determined to renew the conflict. To screen the country from invasion, it became necessary to carry the war beyond our frontiers, and our victorious armies appeared on the Vistula.

“The year 1813 commenced. The people listened to the voice of truth. Their courage, cast down by misfortune, revived; their spirits rallied; the people formed but one army. Those who made any resistance were subdued; and, flying from victory to victory, we speedily reached the banks of the Rhine.

“Nothing could decide the enemy to peace; but, scarcely had a year elapsed, when he beheld us at the gates of Paris. The French people, towards whom we had never felt any enmity, diverted the storm that was ready to fall upon it. France opened her eyes to the abyss that surrounded her, tore the veil of illusion, and was ashamed of being the instrument of ambition; the voice of the country was raised, and the legitimate sovereign recalled to the throne.

“France wished for peace; a generous and a durable one has been granted her. This peace, the pledge of the security of each nation in particular, as well as of the permanent tranquillity of all, protects the independence, assures the liberty, consolidates the prosperity of Europe, and prepares the reward of the labours and dangers which have been so courageously surmounted.

“Thus the Most High has put an end to our calamities—has crowned our country with glory in the eyes of future generations, and recompensed us according to the wishes of our hearts.

“Whilst addressing to heaven fervent and humble prayers, to thank the Author of all good, we order that solemn thanksgivings shall likewise be offered up to him throughout our whole empire. We are convinced that Russia, on her knees before the Eternal, will shed tears of joy.

“Given at Paris, May 30th, in the year 1814, and of our reign the 14th.”

HOW wonderfully advantageous to the liberties of Europe has been the termination of the war, may be seen by the following facts:--By the peace of Amiens, France was left in possession of an additional extent of territory, of 4,500 square miles, and a population of between four and 5,000,000 of inhabitants; while the losses of Austria were nearly in proportion to her enemy's acquisitions. By the peace of Paris, France is reduced to her limits as they existed before the Revolution, and the balance of power is restored, by the re-establishment of Holland, Prussia, and the ecclesiastical territories, as independent states, with a proper addition of territory to each. The Congress, now assembled at Vienna, will not fail to settle the interests of the minor states upon a just basis; and there is every reason to hope, that, after so many years of desolation, the peace of Europe will prove of long and happy continuance.

The pride of Great Britain has been eminently flattered by the late visit of the Emperor of RUSSIA, the King of PRUSSIA, and their brave chiefs to her Regent and capital; and they have returned to their respective states, filled with admiration of her power and glory, and fully convinced, that, without her generous and valiant aid, the liberties of all Europe would have sunk under the gigantic ambition of the deposed ruler of France.

In conclusion, we shall say, for the information of posterity, that this glorious peace could not, by human possibility, have been obtained, but through an undeviating perseverance in that wise and profound political system, proposed and adhered to by the immortal PITT, sanctioned by his gracious Majesty GEORGE THE THIRD, and continued by his illustrious son, our present PRINCE REGENT. Let it also be remembered, that, when the war was brought to its happy termination, the Earl of LIVERPOOL (who, twenty years before, had given his opinion of the possibility of the allied army capturing Paris) was the Prime Minister of England; Lord CASTLEREAGH (whose eminent diplomatic services on the continent are above all eulogium) was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Lord BATHURST, Secretary at War; Lord MELVILLE, First Lord of the Admiralty; Viscount SIDMOUTH, Minister for the Home Department; Mr. VANSITTART, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord ELDON, Lord High Chancellor; and his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK, Commander-in-Chief of the forces.

THE
G R A N D J U B I L E E.

THE mighty and unparalleled struggle being thus so gloriously closed, the first thoughts of the Regent and his government were directed to the best mode of affording the generous and loyal people a public opportunity of exulting at the event. The usual expressions of joy, in general illuminations of the metropolis, tavern-dinners, and similar demonstrations of happiness, had already taken place; and it only remained for the state to make up the climax of festivity, by an official public entertainment. Precedents were not wanting, either to authorize the proceedings, or to indicate the scite for, and the nature of, the amusement, suitable both to the celebration of the event and the national feeling and taste. The only occasion, however, on which a public entertainment, at all to be compared with that which we have now to record, occurring in modern times, was that in honour of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1749. It is natural for the human mind to delight in contrasting the memorable of the past with the interesting of the present; and, therefore, a brief outline of what took place at the period just mentioned may not be an unacceptable introduction to the details of that which it has been our felicity to behold in 1814. Few eyes, which were then competent to judge of the splendour and effect of the first-mentioned exhibition, have been permitted to gaze on those of the latter. Those which have not been quenched by death must have been dimmed by time; and memory can hardly be supposed to have held its place so well, through the long period of threescore and five years, as to enable those who were present at the celebration of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, to speak with much precision of the comparative merit of that given in honour of the Peace of Paris: but, as we can form a tolerable idea of the rejoicings which

then took place from the accounts which are extant, we have no hesitation in believing and asserting, that, in point of splendour, variety, and general interest, they fell far short of the festivities which we have lately witnessed.

On that occasion, the grand scene of action was the Green Park; where a superb edifice, designed by an Italian artist, named LENUANDONI, was constructed, from which the fireworks were exhibited. It was erected at the distance of 500 feet from his Majesty's Library. The fête took place on the 27th of April. The edifice we have mentioned represented a magnificent temple, with wings terminated by pavilions. It was 114 feet high to the top of the king's arms, and 410 feet long, with allegorical pictures, &c. On the pedestal of Peace was inscribed—"Peace restored in 1748." It was adorned by twenty-three statues, and twenty-eight pictures; the largest, twenty-eight feet by ten, representing his Majesty giving Peace to Britannia. They at first appeared as marble basso-relievos; afterwards as coloured transparencies, with frets, gildings, lustres, artificial flowers, inscriptions, statues, allegorical pictures, &c.

The inscriptions were as follow:—

On the pedestal of Peace, in the centre, *Pax rediviva, an. MDCCXLVIII.*—Peace restored in the Year 1748. In the frieze over the centre arch, *Georgius II. Rex.*; which appeared transparent during the whole performance of the fireworks.

On the left side of the machine, *Redintegrata Europæ pax, securitate fœderum stabilita, commercio feliciter restituto, sub auspiciis opt. princ. latatur S. P. Q. B.* To give peace to Europe, to secure the faith of treaties, to restore and enlarge commerce, is the auspicious work of a British king—the triumph of a British people.

On the right side of the machine, *Hinc principem bello accinget libertati devota, fortitudo. Illinc pacificum ostendit, salutis omnium considens clementia.* A prince never disposed to engage in war but from a fortitude sacred to liberty. Ever studious of peace from clemency; intent on the public good.

On the attic, in the middle of the back front, *Georgii II. Reg. opt. auctori salutis, libertatis vindici, fundatori quietis, patri patriæ.* To the guardian of our safety, the assertor of our liberty, the establisher of our tranquillity, the most gracious Sovereign and Father of his people, GEORGE II.

The statues which adorned it were thirty-three; viz. on the first half space of the great staircase, on the right hand, was Time; on the left, Isis—each reclining on an urn.

In the centre of the temp'le, seated on an altar, was the Goddess of Peace, holding an olive-branch, and supported on the right by Neptune, and on the left by Mars. These five in plaister of Paris.

In front, four statues; viz. Justice, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence. On the right hand, Religion, Constancy, Honour, Clemency. In the back front, Faithfulness, Vigilance. On the attie, above the cornice, in the front, Jupiter, Ceres, Diana, Apollo. In the back front, at the angles, Mercury and Minerva.

The pictures in front were eighteen, each painted double: they at first appeared as marble basso relievos; and, after the fireworks, they were removed by machinery, and discovered pictures representing the same subject in colours.

The great picture, over the cornice in the centre, was twenty-eight feet by ten: it represented his Majesty giving Peace to Britannia. The attendants on Peace were Plenty, Riches, Felicity, Trade, and Commerce; the attendants on Britannia were Liberty, Agriculture, and the Arts and Sciences.

On the right of this, below the entablature, was a picture of fifteen feet by eight, representing the return of Neptune riding on the ocean, in a car drawn by sea-horses; his right hand held a trident, his left supported a globe; he was conducted by the Genius of Peace, and attended by tritons, sea-nymphs, &c. Companion to this, on the left of the central arch, was the return of Mars: he was seated on a car, drawn by three lions, the arms of England; and was conducted by Fame with an olive-branch, who proclaimed the Peace. The car was followed by the army. On each side of these two last pictures was a festoon of arms and military instruments.

The medallion on the right hand was Britannia joining hands with France; the legend, *Concordia redax*. Exergue, *Britt. Gall.* Concord renewed. Britain, France. Below this was the figure of Liberty.

On the left was a medallion representing Britannia joining hands with Spain; the legend, *Salus mutua*. Exergue, *Britt. Hisp.* Mutual Benefit. Britain, Spain. Below this was the figure of Plenty.

The following pictures were not rendered transparent ; viz. the **Genii of Peace** burning heaps of arms on each end of the machine. At the right end were two medallions ; one of Augustus ; the other of Antonius Pius. At the left end, two medallions ; one of Vespasian ; the other of Trajan. Underneath, two Genii, on each side of a globe ; one sitting with a book in his hand ; the other, standing, holding parchments, with seals, pendant, &c.

After a grand overture with warlike instruments, composed by Handel, a signal was given for the commencement of the fireworks, which opened by a royal salute of 101 brass ordnance ; viz. seventy-one six-pounders, twenty twelve-pounders. When the salute ended, the firework began. This consisted of a splendid display of all the varieties of the pyrotechnic art, a description of which is not sufficiently interesting to occupy our limits.

After due consideration, it was resolved to take the plan of the festival, just alluded to, as a basis for the one in contemplation ; but to conduct it upon a far more grand and enlarged scale, and to render it more worthy of public approbation, than any that had before occurred ; inasmuch as it was intended to celebrate a Peace more glorious to the British nation than any which she had ever effected. The most eminent surveyors, architects, and artists, were immediately consulted ; and their approved and excellent plans were instantly put in a train of execution. The operations began by the building of the elegant Chinese Bridge over the Canal, in St. James's Park, and were proceeded in with astonishing rapidity. Soon afterwards, the ground was marked out for the splendid temple in the Green Park, which was 500 feet in diameter, and eighty feet high. The timber for this edifice had been some time in preparation at Milbank ; and, while the builders were employed in this and the other substantial structures, the machinists of the theatres were incessantly engaged in preparing innumerable Chinese lanterns, of various shapes, and exhibiting all manner of grotesque and ludicrous devices ; some representing scenes from the most favourite modern comedies, farces, and pantomines ; others displaying pugilistic encounters ; and others, again, miniature views of the most picturesque mansions, villas, &c. in the neighbourhood of London.

While these extensive preparations were going forward, others, of a differ-

ent nature, were proceeding, with equal alacrity, for the *Fair* and *Naumachia* in Hyde Park. Vessels, of considerable size, were daily arriving on carriages from Woolwich, and other yards on the Thames, to be launched on the Serpentine River; and the novelty of the combined operations at length created such an universal interest, that it became necessary to satisfy the public mind, by giving a full explanation of the means adopted for enabling the whole population of the metropolis, as well as the countless thousands who daily entered it from every quarter of the country, to participate in the different branches of the festival with safety and convenience. The summary of the dispositions, then making, was at length understood to be as follows:—

It was resolved that Hyde Park should be entirely open to the people, with even a greater profusion of amusements than the other two. The Green Park also to be thrown entirely open to the people: the part within the circular fence being enclosed merely for the military and artificers engaged in the business of the fireworks, and not, as had been represented, for the reception of company.

The Mall also in St. James's Park to be beautifully illuminated, and open to the public, who were to have a free passage from Spring Gardens and New Street up to Constitution Hill, and thereby enabled to command a full view of every part of the fireworks, and other exhibitions to be displayed in St. James's Park, as well as the other two.

While the general preparations were in progress, it occurred to the projectors of the fête, that many of the middle classes of society would be glad to obtain superior accommodation at a reasonable expense, if means could be adopted to secure them from promiscuous intermixture with the immense crowd that would assemble. An admirable idea, in consequence, suggested itself; which was, that a fund might be raised by an authorized sale of tickets; the produce of which might be applied to the relief of the orphans of our soldiers and seamen. This project was too praiseworthy to create objection; it was immediately carried into effect, and the lottery-office keepers were empowered to issue the tickets. The Lawn, and the South Mall of St. James's Park, called the Bird-cage Walk, were the spaces set apart for the accommodation of the purchasers of tickets. At first it was thought by the public, that those who entered by means of tickets would, by

being confined to one spot, preclude themselves from enjoying the variety of amusements, which might be witnessed by those who could extend their perambulations through each of, and all the Parks. But no sooner was an objection started to any part of the plan, than it was answered and refuted in the public journals. It was justly stated, that there was abundance of amusement provided for all, and space enough in the three Parks for double the population of this great metropolis. It must be observed also, that, to prevent an inconvenient pressure in any one point, all the amusements in the three Parks were to proceed at the same time. One object alone would never have sufficed for the gratification of all; while the attempt at change of position from one Park to the other could only end in disappointment, as it might be conceived morally impossible for every person to witness all the recreations that were to be afforded. But a regulation was adopted in regard to the tickets, which gave general satisfaction:—All the company entering the enclosed space were informed, that they might have free egress from any of the gates, and re-enter whenever they pleased, by taking checks—the same as at the regular theatres. Thus, as the amusements in Hyde Park, including the Naumachia, were considered to be far superior in interest to any of the rest, many of the company, who entered by tickets, quitted the lawn, and repaired to the banks of the Serpentine; and, after witnessing the first naval combat, returned, without the least obstruction, to their privileged spot.

That the purchasers of tickets might be authentically informed of the accommodation they were to expect, the following *official Account of the Amusements in St. James's Park* was delivered to them as an envelope to their cards:—

“ The late glorious events having been thought to require some great national manifestation of public joy, and to warrant the preparation of an abundant provision of the amusements usually afforded to the people on such occasions, the first study has been to arrange those amusements in such manner, that every class of the population of this great metropolis should have the most ample enjoyment, and that the poorer order should possess it gratuitously. But as, at the same time, it was well known, that the upper and middle classes would, in fact, have been excluded from their share, had they been left to seek it in an indiscriminate crowd, it was considered to be a very necessary and desirable arrangement, to secure to them a less occupied space, by the purchase of tickets, which, while it was cer-

tain to operate in producing a select company, was the mode of effecting it more impartially ; and, to convince every one that no other motive existed, the produce of these tickets was determined to be devoted to some great charitable purpose connected with the occasion.

“ As this program, therefore, is addressed merely to the purchasers of such tickets, it is sufficient here to describe the amusements which they may look forward to.

“ These amusements will begin with the ascent of a magnificent balloon, of sufficiently large dimensions to take up two persons in the car affixed to it. It will ascend about five o'clock ; later in the day, a smaller balloon of twenty feet in diameter will also ascend, and a copious display of fireworks from it will be exhibited in the higher regions of the air ; it will then be made to descend, and, upon its second ascension, another display of brilliant fireworks will also take place at a great elevation from the ground. Still later in the evening, several other balloons, upon a smaller scale, will be dispatched towards the clouds, charged with various fireworks, which will be seen with effect at a lofty height ; and, after these are expended, the hydrogen contained in these balloons will be inflamed, and will produce a brilliant appearance, resembling in splendour the most striking meteoric phenomena.*

“ Over the Canal has been thrown a beautiful Chinese bridge, upon the centre of which has been constructed an elegant and lofty pagoda, consisting of seven pyramidal stories. The pagoda will be illuminated with the gas lights, and brilliant fireworks, both fixed and missile, will be displayed from every division of this lofty Chinese structure. Copious and splendid girandoles of rockets will also be occasionally discharged from the summit, and from other parts of this towering edifice, which will at times be so covered with jerbs, Roman candles, and pots de brin, as to become in appearance one column of brilliant fire. Various smaller temples and columns, constructed upon the bridge, will also be vividly illuminated ; and fixed fireworks, of different devices, on the ballustrade of the bridge, will contribute to heighten the general effect.

“ The Canal will also be well provided with handsomely-decorated boats, at the

* This part of the plan, however, was not carried into execution.

disposal of those who wish to add this amusement to the numerous pleasures of the entertainment.

“ The whole margin of the lawn will be surrounded with booths for refreshment, which will be illuminated in the evening, interspersed with open marquees, provided with seats for the accommodation of the company.

“ The malls of the Park will be illuminated with Chinese lanterns, ornamented with picturesque and grotesque devices, and every tree will have variegated lights intermingled with its foliage. Bands of music will be stationed at various distances, and spaces will be provided on different parts of the lawn, for those who delight in the pleasures of the dance; the whole forming a Vauxhall on the most magnificent scale:—in short, it is hoped, that nothing will be omitted that can essentially provide for the comfort and convenience of the spectators.

“ In addition to the foregoing list of amusements, the purchasers of tickets will have a full view of the royal booth, and of the grand fireworks in the Green Park, which will be displayed, from a fortress or castle, the ramparts of which are one hundred feet square, surmounted by a round tower in the centre about sixty feet in diameter, and rising to the height of fifty feet above the ramparts. Four grand changes of fireworks will be exhibited from this stupendous castle, the whole elevation of which exceeds ninety feet.

“ To secure to every one a complete view of this edifice and its decorations, notwithstanding its great height and dimensions, it is so constructed as to revolve on its centre, so that each side will be successively presented to the assemblage of the company. The castle thus exhibiting the appearance of a grand military fortification, is intended allegorically to represent WAR; and the discharges of artillery, small arms, maroons, &c. may be regarded as descriptive of the terrors of a siege. On a sudden this will cease:—in the midst of volumes of flame, clouds of smoke, and the thunder of artillery, the lofty fortress, the emblem of *destructive War*, is transformed into a beautiful temple, the type of GLORIOUS PEACE. The lower and quadrangular compartment of the temple is embellished with Doric columns of porphyry; the circular edifice which surmounts it is decorated with the lighter Ionic columns of Sienna marble. The whole will be brilliantly illuminated, and adorned with allegorical transparencies, executed by the masterly pencils of artists of the first eminence.

“The following description of the transparencies will enable the spectators distinctly to understand the merits of these allegorical designs, and to form a judgment of the taste, skill, and genius, of the eminent artists, whose talents have, on this glorious occasion, been enlisted, to do justice to the celebration of this pacific festival.”

Short Description of the allegorical transparent Paintings, designed and executed by Messrs. HOWARD, STOTHARD, SMIRKE, WOODFORDE, DAWE, HILTON, &c. forming Part of the Decorations of the Temple erected in the Green Park.

“THE upper and lower pictures on each side are connected in subject, these beneath being sequels to those above: they are illustrative of the origin and effects of War—the deliverance of Europe from Tyranny—the restoration of the BOURBONS by the aid of the Allies—the return of Peace, and its happy consequences—and the triumph of Britain under the government of the PRINCE REGENT.

“On the first side, STRIFE, as described by the ancient poets, is represented expelled from heaven, and sent to excite dissensions among men. JUPITER is seen (accompanied by other divinities) dismissing her from above, and the inhabitants of the earth are flying, terrified at her approach.

“The lower picture represents the effects of her descent. On one side, the CYCLOPS are forging implements of war. MARS, in his car, driven by BELLONA, and hurried on by the FURIES, is overturning all before him. In the back ground are seen towns on fire, and a desolated plain. In front are CHARITY flying in dismay—TRUTH and JUSTICE quitting the earth—and HOPE lingering behind.

“The second side represents EUROPE struggling with TYRANNY. He is tearing off her diadem, and trampling on her balance:—at his feet, among emblems of Religion, Justice, &c. LIBERTY lies prostrate. WISDOM, brandishing the fulmen, is descending to the rescue of EUROPE.

“In the picture beneath, the Genius of FRANCE is restoring the sceptre to the dynasty of the BOURBONS, personified by a female seated on a throne, in a regal mantle, ornamented with *fleurs de lis*. On one side of her BRITANNIA,

SPAIN, and PORTUGAL; and on the other RUSSIA, PRUSSIA, AUSTRIA, and SWEDEN, are witnessing the event with delight:—a groupe of subjects behind are expressing their joy and homage, and Genii are descending with emblems of Peace, Plenty, Justice, Honour, Liberty, Religion, &c. At one end of the composition STRENGTH is driving out ANARCHY, FRAUD, and REBELLION; at the other end, VICTORY is inscribing on a shield the names of the great Commanders of the allied powers, and FAME is sounding her trumpet.

“ On the third side, PEACE is seen in the clouds with her olive-branch; TIME looks at her with transport, and the EARTH hails her return.

“ Beneath is represented her REIGN, or the renewal of the GOLDEN AGE: She is surrounded by PLENTY, the RURAL DEITIES, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, the ARTS, MINERVA, and the MUSES.

“ The fourth side displays a colossal statue of the PRINCE REGENT, crowned by VICTORY. DISCORD is chained by FORCE to the pedestal; TRUTH and JUSTICE are returning to earth; and BRITANNIA is looking up to Heaven with gratitude for the blessings of his government.

Below is the triumph of BRITAIN. BRITANNIA is in a car of state, accompanied by NEPTUNE with his trident, and MARS displaying the British standard. FAME and VICTORY attend upon her—she is preceded by PRUDENCE, TEMPERANCE, JUSTICE, and FORTITUDE; and followed by the ARTS, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, and the DOMESTIC VIRTUES.”

A few lines of consolation were added to this account, to do away the alarm respecting the sticks that would fall from the rockets: they merely assured the public, that no danger could possibly ensue from this circumstance, as the scites of the fireworks were surrounded by a fence, to prevent inexperienced persons from approaching beyond a secure distance; besides which, to render the rockets perfectly harmless, they would be even of smaller dimensions than those used in ordinary exhibitions of fireworks.

As soon as that part of the plan which related to the ticket admission had been officially announced, applications for tents and booths, on the part of *restorateurs* and coffee-house keepers, became innumerable. Many of the latter were built entirely of timber, and contained not only double rows of tables and forms,

but large spaces for dancing; and several well-known and respectable wine merchants and vintners of London came forward to outbid each other, in order to procure them. In fact, so great was their anxiety to obtain these temporary receptacles of profit, that 40*l.* per day was offered for the wooden erections; the tents for refreshments were let at 20*l.* per day, and other stands at 2*s.* per foot:—in the memorandums of agreement entered into by the parties, spirits of every kind were prohibited from being sold.

The preparations, by the close of July, advanced rapidly towards completion, and the time for the festivity was positively fixed. Day after day had been named, and anxiety had been still kept on its full stretch. Delay did not appear to diminish expectation, or cool desire; which seemed, on the contrary, to have even increased under deferred hope. Great perplexity certainly was caused, by the extensive preparations for this occasion not having been sufficiently forwarded during the stay of the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and the long train of royal, princely, and illustrious personages, who paid this country the honours of their visit.

It was at first understood, that it was to be combined with some grand plan of entertainment, to be given by the PRINCE REGENT on that occasion; and this, it is highly probable, would have been the case, could those personages have prolonged their visit for another month: but, after many pressing invitations, we understand that they declared their concurrence to be incompatible with their high and important duties. After their departure for the continent, different days were mentioned; but still it was to be in celebration of the peace so happily accomplished under the auspices of His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT. To mark this as its most striking feature, a large inscription was placed over the circular royal booth, to the following effect:—"Peace restored under the Regency." There seems to have prevailed a good deal of indecision respecting the whole of the arrangements. Questions were asked in Parliament concerning the time to be appointed; to which no satisfactory answer could be given. The plan and its details were changed several times. It was next given out, that it was to take place on the 12th of August, the REGENT's birth-day:—the object was supposed to be, generally, the celebration of the peace; but something else was to be combined

with it, which was not decided upon. At last, the inscription relative to peace was removed: the 1st of August was fixed upon; and “the Centenary of the Accession of the Illustrious House of Brunswick,” was selected as the joint subject of commemoration, and inscribed accordingly on the regal booth or pavilion. The naval victories were likewise brought into view; and the inscription, “*Nelson of the Nile*,” ranged on the royal booth, in a line with that of “*Wellington* ;” while the bridge over Constitution Hill was distinguished by the names of our naval heroes. Thus a sort of general celebration was made of War, of Peace, and of the Accession of the House of Brunswick.

The auspicious day at length arrived, which was to diffuse general happiness amongst the whole population of this vast metropolis. Monday, the 1st of August, was to be a day ever memorable in our future history, as it had already been for a whole century; and nothing was anticipated that could throw a *damp* on the glorious scene, but those elemental variations so peculiar to our climate. A showery day was an accident against which no human precaution could provide; and notice was given only on the preceding morning, that, in the event of unfavourable weather, farther postponement would be necessary. Monday morning came; and, at an early hour, its appearance covered many a fair countenance with the gloom of disappointment. The sky was darkened, the rain descended, and the expected pleasures of the day were given up for the moment as lost. Sunday had been uncommonly fine: the eve of the festal day had, in a manner, commenced the entertainment; and thousands, promenading the Parks, had almost outwatched the moon. The apprehension of disappointment was, however, suddenly relieved; for, between ten and eleven, the sun re-appeared, beaming in all his glory, and shedding his brightest refulgence on the scene. The inhabitants of the metropolis, and the countless numbers, who had come to it from “all the country round,” had nothing now to interfere with their hopes, or to prevent them from getting ready as soon as they pleased, and throwing themselves into the vortex of festivity and rejoicing. The appearance of all the streets leading towards the Parks was without any parallel, that we know of. The shops, in some streets, were shut up: all were walking, or running, or riding in the same direction; it was difficult to proceed in an opposite one. Myriads of persons, of both sexes, of all

ages, and of all ranks, in all their respective variety of dress, were seen flocking to the selected spots.

It would appear, that the conductors of the fête entertained some alarms respecting the possible conduct of the populace in the Parks, which occasioned them to issue the following public notification on Monday morning:—

“ AUGUST 1st

“ Is the day fixed for a Grand National Jubilee, being the Centenary of the Accession of the illustrious Family of Brunswick to the Throne of this Kingdom, and the Anniversary of the Battle of the Nile.

“ Hyde Park, in which there will be a grand fair, is entirely open to the people.

“ The Green Park will also be entirely open to the people.

“ The Mall of St. James’s Park, and Constitution Hill, will also be open to the people, to enter by Spring Gardens, and New Street Gates.

“ The Lawn in St. James’s Park, and the Bird-cage Walk, will be devoted to those who have purchased tickets.”

[Then followed a description of the accommodation prepared for the public. The conclusion ran thus:]—

“ Let not the people, therefore, listen to those who would poison their minds—to those who are the constant enemies of all public joy. Let them be assured, that the object of the peaceful festival is to give, to all ranks and orders, a grateful occasion to indulge in that full participation of happiness, to which their perseverance, in a most sanguinary and trying contest, crowned with unprecedented success, has so richly entitled them.”

We shall commence our descriptive account with the proceedings in

HYDE PARK.

For some days, the booths, shows, and stalls had arrived, and been arranged with surprising rapidity. Nothing could be more luxuriant, various, and finely disdainful of regularity, than their whole growth. In Milton’s phrase,

Nature revels here in all her virgin fancies,
Wild without art or rule—enormous bliss.

Booths round, square, triangular, and polygonal, waving with flags of all nations, and of none; ensigns, fabricated of those habiliments which once enjoyed other honours on the forms of female loveliness and manly vigour; dilapidated petticoats, pantaloons with a single leg, old sheets glittering with the insignia of the REGENT, and fac similes of the physiognomy of the illustrious WELLINGTON, covered the ground for many an acre. These receptacles for refreshment and recreation, being arranged with great care and regularity, furnished a most singular spectacle:—on entering, at Hyde Park Corner, a sort of advanced-guard, in the form of a semi-circle, met the eye, consisting of stalls neatly fitted up for the sale of gingerbread, toys, &c. Farther on, booths, solely intended to furnish refreshments, spread right and left; while the theatres of Saunders, Scowton, and Gyngell, added much to the interest of the scene. Swings, and all the vehicles of amusement, usually in requisition at a fair, were found in great numbers. From Hyde Park Corner the booths, swings, &c. extended nearly to Oxford Street, occupying a larger space of ground than was perhaps ever filled in such a manner before, and reaching to the borders of the Serpentine, where the grand fleet (in augmented force) lay at anchor. Favoured by a spring tide, which set in strongly during the morning in the shape of a shower, it had by noon floated into deep water, and formed the line: the ships were moored in line a-head, and ready for action. The wind veered from N.N.E. to W. about one P. M. and the British line were now got into a state of readiness to come down. The disproportion, however, between its strength and that of its mimic antagonists, was formidable, and certainly not necessary to the victory of a British fleet fighting in sight of its own shores. The spectators were numerous; the Kensington shore was lined with fireworks, to cut off all retreat in that quarter; and a balloon was prepared to rise in their rear with the first bulletin of the victory. The operations thus began:—

First, we saw a frigate from the English fleet sailing majestically down the Serpentine, with the wind abaft the boom, to attack two ships of similar force, which lay at anchor also, detached from the French fleet, under American colours (*the stripes*). She was soon after followed by another frigate of our's, of nearly the same force; and, when they came within gunshot of the Americans, re-opened their fire on them. This was returned with interest, and, after passing them, our ships at-

tempted to take them on the other tack ; but, the wind being right a-head, they were driven considerably astern, and their intention was thus frustrated. They then put out their boats, which towed them a-head ; and, after a short conflict between stern-chasers and bow-chasers, our frigates were brought alongside, and a smart engagement ensued, which ended by lowering the American colours, and hoisting the English over them. The frigates and their prizes were then towed up to the top of the *Serpentine*, where the English fleet were moored.

As evening fell, a new and dreadful note of preparation awoke ; sails were bent, flags hoisted, cannoneers embarked, and tow-ropes launched through the hawse-holes. The sun now approached to his setting ; and, in the warlike conceptions of the time, the immense multitude that crowded the shore, in rank upon rank, and thousand upon thousand, gleaming in that deep and coloured night, might pass for an army waiting to see the contest of the fleets decided. As the surrounding bells tolled eight, the headmost ship of the British line got under way, and bore down on the starboard tack ; and, in ten minutes, opened her fire, which was immediately returned from the whole French line. The British van followed in succession, each ship opened its fire as it dropped beside its antagonist, and the combat was sustained without any obvious advantage for a considerable time ; but, as the smoke cleared off, the leading ship of the British was observed to swing right on shore, her fire almost silenced, and her masts in a tottering condition. In this emergency, a breeze sprang up ; and the Admiral, a three-decker, moving majestically down with her consorts, took her station on the larboard of the French line. The firing now re-commenced with tremendous effect ; the cheering of the British was universal ; the shouts of the spectators gave still higher animation to these sportive assertors of their country's fame ; the headmost of the French line was seen to cut her cable and run ; at half-past eight her second attempted to follow her example,—but the loss of her main-mast disabled her, and she struck, after a broadside. The engagement still continued with the centre and rear ; but it was now less for honour than for safety. The British fire redoubled : both fleets were lost in volumes of smoke. The Admiral, by a masterly manœuvre, threw himself into a raking position ; and, at forty minutes past eight, the enemy's flagship ceased her fire, not having then a stick standing. The battle now gradually

decayed: broadsides were discharged at intervals, as the ships ranged up by their opponents that had not yet struck;—but the fortune of the day was decided, and, within ten minutes to nine, the last gun was fired. The moon, that had risen in clouded majesty, and besides must have found an additional obstacle in the group of this great encounter, now

“Unveil’d her peerless light,
“And o’er the dark her silver mantle threw.”

Innumerable lamps, less bright but more within reach, now glittered over the landscape, and the booths put on their perfect gaiety. But the “more attractive metal” of the Green Park *seduced* the multitude. The crowd, who were originally to be prevented from inundating the Green Park by finding better amusement in their first position, supposing they should find none after the battle, rushed down in part, at least, towards the temple, which was then beginning to twinkle in its first lustres.

Some part of the crowd, then, had deserted the two fleets on the close of their first contest, little judging of the fate which was even yet to attend the defeated one—no other than its final conflagration. About ten o’clock the spectators were suddenly surprised by the instantaneous burst on their sight of a ship on fire. This was at first beheld as a *calamity*; but, in a few minutes, it was universally perceived that she was bearing down on the French fleet, previously driven on shore. The awful grandeur, and the still increasing splendour of the scene, drew forth bursts of enthusiastic acclamations from both the shores of the Serpentine; and, in a few minutes, the first ship of the French fleet, which lay in her line, and with which she came in contact, was set on fire, and added to the magnificence of a scene, which, in its real occurrence, has been universally allowed to exceed all others in terrific pomp, viz. that of a ship of war on fire at sea. This first frigate was followed by a second; and, by the two, the whole French fleet were set on fire and demolished. The effect produced by this blaze was such as to make the whole water appear on fire.

Soon after this the fireworks began; but the superior splendour of the expiring fleet eclipsed, for a long time, every thing that could be produced by pyrotechnic

ingenuity. Even afterwards, Hyde Park presented a phenomenon no where else to be seen,—namely, the water rockets. They commence with a report, which draws the attention of the spectators to them; they are then seen whirling about with great rapidity on the surface of the water, imitating the rotatory motion of a mill-wheel. In a few seconds, there is an addition of a very beautiful fountain, which, after displaying its elegant spoutings for some time, bursts forth with a loud report, into a variety of what are called water-snakes. These, after flying into the air, descend again into the water, into which they immerse for a second or two, and then rise at the distance of a few feet, and keep thus continually bounding in all directions, and after various immersions, till at last they expire in a loud explosion.

With these the exhibitions in Hyde Park terminated.

THE GREEN PARK.

THIS principal and interesting scene of attraction was crowded at an early hour; and, being much increased, as we have already said, by the impetuous torrents of spectators, which poured from Hyde Park after the termination of the *Naumachia*, it became, by ten o'clock, one immobile mass of human beings. This spot was certainly the focus of interest. Here the royal box, richly ornamented, presented the name of the heroic "NELSON," and reminded us of the glories of "The Nile." "Peace," and "The Centenary of the illustrious House of Brunswick," were among its other decorations. The box was very elegantly fitted up in every respect: its form was circular, and it was lined with crimson. On the right, adjoining it, was a long gallery, surmounted with the names of "WELLINGTON, HILL, BERESFORD, PICTON, STEWART, HOPE, GRAHAM," and other British warriors, who have distinguished themselves on land in the course of the eventful contest which has just been ended. Farther on, the bridge constructed for the royal family to pass to their box from Buckingham House, illuminated as was the gallery we have just noticed, gave to view the names of "HOWE, St. VINCENT, COLLINGWOOD, DUNCAN," and many other distin-

guished commanders, whose prowess has maintained, under all circumstances, our naval glory untarnished and unrivalled. The effect of these splendid decorations it is difficult to conceive, and impossible to describe. The illuminations did not pretend to any extraordinary magnificence; they merely exhibited, amidst a profuse blaze of lamps, the names of all the illustrious companions of WELLINGTON in the peninsula war, and of the principal naval heroes, dead and living, who, during the last twenty years, have upheld and increased the maritime glory of their country. At ten o'clock, a loud and long continued discharge of artillery announced the commencement of the fireworks; which were, certainly, if not the most tasteful, yet on the grandest and most extensive scale that we have ever witnessed. From the battlements of the castle, at one moment, ascended the most brilliant rockets: presently, the walls disclosed all the rarest and most complicated ornaments of which the art is susceptible: the senses were next astonished and enchanted with a pacific exhibition of those tremendous instruments of destruction invented by Colonel CONGREVE. Some notion even of their terrible power might be formed from this display, and their exceeding beauty could be contemplated, divested of its usual awful associations. Each rocket contains in itself a world of smaller rockets: as soon as it is discharged from the gun, it bursts and flings aloft into the air innumerable parcels of flame, brilliant as the brightest stars: the whole atmosphere is illuminated by a delicate blue light, which threw an air of enchantment over the trees and lawns, and made even the motley groups of universal London become interesting, as an assembly in romance. These several smaller rockets then burst again, and a shower of fiery light descends to the earth, and extends over many yards. Such was one of the beautiful fireworks, which, during the space of two hours, amused and astonished the people. But the public, who had been on their legs all day, and were not sufficiently accommodated with seats, began at length to be tired with the endless repetition even of the most striking beauties, and became impatient for the grand metamorphosis of the castle into a temple. This was now the principal object to which the attention of the spectators was awake—the conversion of a fabric, designed for the purposes of war, into a temple of peace, and an illuminated monument of victory. The metamorphosis took place with somewhat less than the celerity generally witnessed in our theatrical pantomines: it resembled the cautious removal of a screen, rather

than the sudden leap into a new shape. When fully developed, however, it presented a spectacle, which, for extent of splendour, and not less for tastefulness of arrangement, deserved the admiration, and satisfied the hopes which it had inspired. It represented a structure not differing considerably from that from which it had emerged, with the exception of a greater rotundity in its first and second circles. The lamps were yellow, fringed with blue, and intermixed round the base with red; the pillars girded by festoons, agreeably varied; whilst two rows of transparencies mixed their lustre with the general scene. The devices were, among others, "The Golden Age," "Peace restored to Earth," "The Regency," and the representations were the ordinary figurative emblems of peace and goodwill among men. Undoubtedly, no display of artificial and ornamental light was ever condensed into a smaller compass, and heightened into more magnificent effect. But almost at the period when it first glared upon the already dazzled vision of the multitude, they were for a time attracted to an unforeseen and melancholy exhibition in the adjoining Park, "and thronging millions to the pagod ran." Its short but portentous blaze, which, like the meteor that eclipses the regular splendours of the firmament, engrossed the general eye for its season, had no sooner abated than the "stormy wave of the populace" retired to its former station, and, in various attitudes, banquetted on the flood of light that poured itself around them. Amidst the listlessness and the riot of the scene, an enquiring eye sometimes found leisure to look towards the decorated galleries, which the public had been taught to consider as prepared for the reception of illustrious and royal guests. It was here that the chief disappointment was experienced: no person of distinction, in rank or politics, appeared.

The fireworks and the temple together certainly gave to the general gaze a very brilliant gratification in the Green Park.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

It now only remains for us to describe the amusements of this third and conspicuous point of attraction. This, as we have said, being the spot appropriated for those who dreaded the inconveniences of a mob, and who purchased the accommodation of an unobstructed promenade upon the lawn, it was occupied by the purchasers of the tickets; and, we were going to observe, that these were not near so numerous as might have been expected. Probably, among the causes which deterred the purchasers, was an apprehension that the influx would be too great, or that the crowds in the mall might be tempted to invade the enclosure, disturb the select scene, and make free with the accommodations which the booths afforded. For the honour of the London populace, we must say, that nothing disagreeable of this sort occurred; and we must in fairness add, that it was exceedingly creditable to the conductors of the fête, that they had so good an opinion of the British public, that they did not think it necessary to provide any military demonstrations for the purpose of controlling or overawing the dispositions of the populace. Whatever order or decorum was preserved was not owing to the soldiery, of whom we never saw so few employed as on this occasion, whereon many naturally thought that their assistance would be materially necessary. The enclosed space in St. James's Park being a level, and viewed at once, appears rather small; but its actual dimensions are such as to contain thousands with perfect ease.

Notwithstanding the immense crowds in the streets, which we have before noticed, the access to this Park was very easy at several gates. Between two and three o'clock, some thousands entered, and their numbers gradually increased till dusk, when they augmented very considerably. From this scite the principal amusement consisted in the ascent of the balloon from the front of the Queen's House, which was preceded by the flight of one or two of a small and insignificant size. The grand balloon was one of the meanest in device and colouring that we have ever seen: it was destitute of the least ornament. Mr. SADLER ascended in

the car. Mrs. H. JOHNSTONE was on the ground ; and, we understand, would have gone up, had the machinery been properly adapted for the conveyance of two persons. She had a dove in her hand, that emblem of peace and charity, which she had intended to send down to the earth on her celestial ascension. The Duke of WELLINGTON and several persons of distinction were present.

About six o'clock the balloon was ready to start on its aerial voyage : Mr. SADLER stepped into it ; the ropes were cut, and the machine sprang into the air with its usual velocity. Its motion was nearly perpendicular till it attained a very considerable height : it then glided along in the direction of Kent. Mr. SADLER carried up with him a vast number of the programmes of the jubilee, which he soon flung down again with much industry and profusion.

The ascent was a remarkable fine one. Not a cloud was to be seen ; and the balloon, sailing southward, was visible ; till, from height and distance, it appeared but a black speck in the firmament, and became too small for the eye to follow it. It remained in sight about half an hour.

When Mr. SADLER occupied the attention of the assembly no longer, a rowing match was next on the list of amusements. This furnished considerable entertainment. A number of Thames watermen had permission to ply on the Canal : many worthy citizens and their families enjoyed an aquatic diversion for the first, and perhaps the last time, on this regal stream ; and several boat-races took place before dusk : but the boats were just as they are seen on the river ; not painted, decorated, and ensigned, as was expected. Of the booths erected for the accommodation of the company, many were untenanted : those, however, which were occupied had a pretty good share of business. The time, till dark, was chiefly employed by the company in walking backwards and forwards, or getting their dinner.

The bridge and pagoda, beautiful as seen by day, and of the appearance of which our plate is a correct representation, became superb when illuminated, and presented a rich mass of brilliant living fire, refracted from the canal below ; affording, on the whole, one of the most striking pictures that ever astonished mankind. The water appeared to have assumed the character of the element most opposed to it ; and the boats seen on it, gliding as it were on a vast sheet of liquid fire, had all the effect of magic, and reminded us of those dazzling illusions, which sometimes close a pantomime.

About nine, the bridge and pagoda were nearly, though they were not all night completely, illuminated according to the design, either through the wind, or some other accidental circumstance. The lawn was lighted up by two rows on each side of the canal, on flag-staffs, &c. of stars and crescents, placed alternately. The Mall and the Birdcage-walk were illuminated by circles of lamps, embracing the trunks of most of the trees. The Chinese lanterns, which promised something fantastically fascinating, by no means answered expectation; not from any inherent fault in them, but from the poverty of the lights placed in them, which was not sufficient to shew off the whimsical and pretty devices painted on them. About ten, the bridge, with its temples and pillars, and its towering superstructure, became an object of singular beauty and magnificence. Whether such a character of design had, or had not, any thing to do with the matters of celebration, it unquestionably combined the elegant and the picturesque in the highest degree. It appeared a blazing edifice of golden fire. Every part of it was covered with lamps; the gas lights, in proper places, relieving the dazzling splendour with their silver lustre; the canopies of the temple throwing up their bright wheels and stars, the pillars enriched with radiance; every rising tower of the pagoda pouring forth its fiery showers, and rockets springing from the lofty tops with majestic flights, almost presuming to outrival the ancient inhabitants of the firmament. The effects of its vivid lights on the calm water which flowed beneath, the verdant foliage of the surrounding trees, the scattered tents, and the numerous assemblage of spectators on the lawn, might, without much of hyperbole, be called magical and enchanting: Alas! too soon shall we be obliged to speak of its departed glories! too soon to tell the fate of this superb creation of a splendid fancy! At ten, discharges of artillery hurried all spectators to the western end of the Park, as they announced the commencement of the superior fireworks in the Green Park. Benches innumerable were brought by soldiers, to enable the fair portion of the assemblage to obtain a view of the castle; of which, after all, only the upper part could be seen distinctly—that edifice being placed in a very low situation, instead of being raised on a mound, so as to render it conspicuous.

When the grand display of pyrotechnics commenced, rockets in profusion led the way, and were continued at every interval from both parks. Jerbes, maroons, Roman candles, catherine-wheels, serpents, stars, flower-pots, and girandoles succeeded each

other, and were discharged with excellent skill and effect. That sort of firework called the girandole was very frequently displayed, in different colours, and was decidedly the most beautiful of the whole. Nothing of the kind could be imagined finer.

Thus were upwards of two hours passed ; till, at length, the public became satiated with the repetition ; and many were seen lying extended on the grass, who could not procure a portion of a bench.

Towards midnight another display of fireworks, of the stationary and rotatory kind, took place before Buckingham House, where Her Majesty was engaged with a numerous party of the nobility, and others of the select friends of royalty. These were such as the public are accustomed to witness at Vauxhall, and require no particular mention.

DESTRUCTION OF THE PAGODA.

At length, about midnight, while the last discharges of artillery were firing, and many hundreds of persons were leaving the Parks, their attention was arrested by a lamentable accident. The pagoda exhibited an appearance that excited much doubt. Its upper towers seemed enveloped in flame ; and it was soon learned, that it had actually caught fire by some accident in the management of the machinery. The fire increased rapidly. Several engines were procured, and played upon it ; but it continued burning, till, in a short time, the five upper towers were destroyed, or fell over the eastern side of the bridge : the lower ones were in a state little better, and some part of the substructure was much deteriorated. There was a kind of awful magnificence during the progress of the flames, that exceeded the former appearance of the edifice ; but, at last, it presented only the melancholy remains of temporary splendour. The fate of this erection was much regretted, as it was the favourite object, and displayed more taste than any thing else connected with the exhibition. Two serious accidents were occasioned by this conflagration. At the very commencement of the fire, a workman who was employed at the top of the building, in attempting to throw himself into the water, fell upon the bridge and was killed : another man was taken to the hospital, without the slightest hope of recovery.

The person who was killed by throwing himself from the pagoda, was a workman belonging to the Royal Arsenal of Woolwich : he left a wife and several children. No sooner had his fate and circumstances become known, than government, highly to their credit, directed, that the amount of his regular earnings should be continued to his widow in the form of a pension ; and his two

eldest boys were taken into that establishment to which he belonged, and furnished with permanent employment.

Thus ended the most festive and happy day, which the existing generations of our metropolis have ever enjoyed, or are ever likely to witness. Whatever a few carping cynics may have asserted, (and sarcastic insinuations were abundantly thrown out during the preparations) to ridicule to motives for, and nature of the recreations, we can declare, and we have the general opinion of the public to bear us out, that the people of England never had greater cause for unqualified joy, nor were they ever more fully gratified by the varied amusements in which they participated. The preparations, like the measures which led to them, were unjustly sneered at in their progress; but they terminated in extorting admiration from those, who were most disposed to condemn;

“ And fools, who went to scoff, remain'd to praise!”

The fair, in Hyde Park, continued throughout the week; till, at length, it degenerated into a scene of licentiousness; and it was deemed necessary to put a stop to it by the interference of the magistrates, under an order from the Secretary of State.

ERRATUM.

THE following brief description of one of the most brilliant achievements of the war, in which British valour was pre-eminently conspicuous, was intended to be introduced as a note, after the word *notice* in the fifteenth line of page 28:—

The memorable and unexpected battle of Maida is, indeed, a glorious exception, which we shall thus incidentally mention, to avoid breaking the chain of our narrative. The action took place on the plains of Calabria, on the 6th of July, 1806; where, in the words of Major-General STUART, “ the prowess of the rival nations seemed now fairly to be at trial before the world, and the superiority was greatly and gloriously decided to be our own.” The French, under General REGIER, were encamped below the village of Maida, when they were attacked by an inconsiderable British force, which had landed from Sicily.

The battle began at nine in the morning. “ The two corps,” says the Major-General, “ at the distance of about 100 yards, fired reciprocally a few rounds; when, as if by mutual agreement, the fire was suspended; and, in close compact, order, and awful silence, they advanced towards each other, until their bayonets began to cross.

“ At this momentous crisis, the enemy became *appalled*. They broke, and endeavoured to fly; but it was too late: they were overtaken with the most dreadful slaughter. The enemy, being thus completely discomfited on the left, began to make a new effort with their right, in the hopes of recovering the day; but they were resisted most gallantly. The cavalry, successively repelled from before the front, made an effort to turn the left; when Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, who had that morning landed from Messina, with the 20th regiment, and was coming up to the army during the action, having observed the movement, threw his regiment opportunely into a small cover upon their flank, and, by a heavy and well-directed fire, entirely disconcerted the attempt. This was the last feeble struggle of the enemy; who now, astonished and dismayed by the intrepidity with which they were assailed, began precipitately to retire, leaving the field covered with carnage. About 700 bodies of their dead have been buried upon the ground. The wounded and prisoners already in our hands amount to about 1000. In short, never has the pride of our presumptuous enemy been more severely humbled, nor the superiority of the British troops more gloriously proved, than in the events of this memorable day.”

SPECIAL
FOLIO

87-B
8250

